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JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1995

U.S. and Lebanon hold 'frank' talks

WASHINGTON (USA) — The United States and Lebanon said in a joint statement issued here that the two countries had "frank and productive" talks relating "to the security of American citizens in Lebanon."

The statement issued by the State Department noted that the two-day talks were conducted in "an excellent atmosphere" and the two delegations will now inform their governments of the talks "in order for them to determine further steps to be taken in this process."

The statement did not mention the U.S. ban on Americans wishing to travel to Beirut, a sore point for the Lebanese who feel the ban is no longer justified. The State Department is reportedly scheduled to review the ban later this month.

Heading the American side in the talks were Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Robert H. Pelletreau and the coordinator for counterterrorism, Philip C. Wilcox Jr. The U.S. delegation included representatives from the Department of Justice, the Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Defence.

The Lebanese delegation was composed of the Lebanese ambassador to the United States, Riad Tabbarah, and advisers representing the internal security forces, general security, state security, airport security, and civil aviation.

The State Department's acting spokeswoman, Christine Shelly, said at the regular briefing, hours before the joint statement was issued, that the purpose of the talks has been "to discuss broad security agenda issues with Lebanese officials and not specifically to take decisions on individual issues."

Iranian ambassador claims militants will oust Clinton

BAALBEK (AP) — Iran's ambassador to Syria says Tehran has placed militant Muslim "soldiers" around the world to bring down America and Israel.

"I tell (President) Clinton, I tell all his allies, I tell his lackey, Israel, your day, your end, is coming soon. Islam is coming to you soon."

Mohammad Hassan Akhtari told a rally Thursday night in this ancient Bekaa Valley town in east Lebanon.

Baalbek is a main base of Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim fundamentalist group fighting Israeli forces and allies in South Lebanon — the last active Arab-Israeli war front.

Bad telephone lines delayed the transmission of Mr. Akhtari's speech to news agencies.

"Iran has soldiers spread out in groups around the world ready for action, for jihad (holier war). They have a far reach," Mr. Akhtari added.

Mr. Akhtari drove in from Damascus and returned to the Syrian capital after the rally, which was organised by Hezbollah, or Party of God, Iran's main ally in Lebanon.

His threat drew shouts of "Death to the great Satan," the Iranian regime's moniker for America, and "Death to Israel" from the estimated crowd of 500 attending the rally.

Mr. Akhtari vowed that "Iran will never succumb to any form of U.S. pressure

She pointed out that the Lebanese government has made "important progress in reasserting its authority and reconstruction" after the 17-year civil strife in the country.

However, she continued, "security problems remain and serious threats do continue to exist for all Americans."

The Lebanese ambassador told a briefing at his residence that this delegation assured the American side of the security situation in Beirut and at the airport, pointing out that the Beirut International Airport "is one of the safest in the world."

He said his delegation is now returning to Beirut to consider the next steps, "if there is a need to proceed along these lines."

Ambassador Tabbarah said his delegation demonstrated to the American side that Lebanon can apprehend criminals and cited several examples as in the case of the Jordanian diplomat who was assassinated there last year.

He added that his delegation also raised other "non-security" issues, urging favourable American reconsideration. These included the ban on the Lebanese airline, Middle East Airlines (MEA), from coming to New York, the question of air freight to Lebanon and the sale of airline tickets in the United States to non-Americans, all profitable ventures for the Lebanese.

He said his side did not request the lifting of the U.S. travel ban "per se" because his purpose at the talks was to improve bilateral relations between the two countries. He did point out that American companies and Americans of Lebanese origin are equally harmed by the travel ban and, in turn, are urging their government to lift the ban.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Bonn protests as Turkey expels German

ANKARA (AFP) — Bonn demanded an explanation from the Turkish government Friday after Ankara expelled a German journalist for contacts with the banned Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). The German ambassador to Ankara was to make a verbal protest to the Turkish Foreign Ministry, demanding a full explanation about Corinna Gutzstet's expulsion Thursday, a German diplomat said. On her return to Frankfurt, Ms. Gutzstet alleged she had been strip-searched by police after her arrest, refused access to a lawyer, and had her portable computer destroyed. The ambassador said such ill-treatment would be "totally unacceptable" if confirmed, the diplomat said. Ankara has made no official comment on the matter, but a government official told AFP that Ms. Gutzstet was "an agitator" who had been expelled after "a long inquiry" into her links with the PKK. "She was receiving money from the terrorist organisation," he alleged, using the official terminology for the PKK.

Egyptian unions mobilise against legal change

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian professional associations dominated by Islamists have mobilised to thwart a legal amendment which they think the government will use to drive the Islamists out of office. The amendment, which strengthens the role of the judiciary in supervising association elections, is at committee stage in parliament and could go before the full house next week. "Eruption of anger sweeps professional associations in protest at conspiracy" said the opposition newspaper Al Shabab, which is close to the unrecognised Muslim Brotherhood.

Ankara thanks Athens for rescuing pilot

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's military commander has thanked his Greek counterpart for Athens' help in rescuing a downed air force pilot whose plane ditched in the Aegean Sea during an exercise. The Anatolia news agency said Friday. The message from the chief of staff of Turkey's armed forces, General Ismail Hakkı Karadayı, to his Greek counterpart Admiral Christos Lymberis, also hoped for "future collaboration" between the two countries. The crash led to a war of words between the two neighbours Wednesday, the Greek Defence Ministry accusing the Turkish plane of violating its airspace. Turkey said the F-16 was on an exercise flight over international waters. The pilot ejected to safety and was picked up by a Greek ship.

Israeli girl, 16, suspected of kidnapping

TEL AVIV (R) — A 16-year-old Israeli girl was named by police on Friday as the mystery woman who kidnapped the daughter of a wealthy diamond merchant for a \$2 million ransom. A juvenile court on Friday remanded her in custody for eight days pending the filing of charges against her. The teenager was widely believed to be the youngest person ever arrested for kidnapping in Israel. Her alleged male accomplice, aged 49, was shot dead by police in Tel Aviv on Tuesday hours after the pair abducted the 19-year-old soldier and later her father as he tried to negotiate her release. Diamond merchant Asher Gerster freed himself just before the shootout. Daughter Keren Gerster surfaced unharmed in northern Israel, where she had been held by the woman accomplice who let her go after failing to hear from the other kidnapper.

Egypt: Peace talks near 'make or break' stage

TOKYO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa

warned on Friday that the Middle East peace process was near a "make or break" stage as Palestinian-Israeli talks remained deadlocked.

The peace process is facing at this stage major difficulties. It is almost at the phase of make or break." Mr. Musa said a news conference in Tokyo.

He was speaking one day after a summit between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin broke down.

The two men failed to end a deadlock over better security for Israelis and a ban on Palestinians entering the Jewish state.

They agreed on little more than to meet again in a week's time, while officials tried to resolve these and other differences over extending self-rule to the occupied West Bank.

Mr. Musa said setbacks in

the implementation of the 1993 Palestinian-Israeli peace

process had left Palestinians very frustrated because "they do not feel the dividends of

peace."

Nothing kills the peace

process more than stagnation.

The stagnation plays

into the hands of terrorists and extremists," Mr. Musa said.

Mr. Musa, who was to

leave on Saturday for

Washington for talks with

PLO and Israeli officials,

said his trip depended on progress made by the two sides.

"We will try again in

Washington and try again and again," he said, adding:

"At the moment there is still hope that the parties will stick to their commitments."

In Washington, Mr. Musa

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Subcommandante Marcos' identity revealed Mexico president orders arrest of Chiapas rebel leader, others

MEXICO CITY (AP) — President Ernesto Zedillo ordered the arrest of Subcommandante Marcos and other leaders of last year's Indian rebellion Thursday, a day after federal agents uncovered what he called major weapons caches and plans for "new and greater acts of violence" across Mexico.

The surprise announcement marked a complete turnaround from the government's attempts to appease the guerrillas and persuade them to lay down their arms by promising to help the poor and clean up the country's elections.

The insurrection embarrassed the government on the very day that Mexico, Canada and the United States launched the North American Free Trade Agreement, and persistent doubts among investors about the government's ability to end the rebellion contributed to Mexico's current economic crisis.

In a surprise address on nationwide TV, Mr. Zedillo said Federal Judicial Police Wednesday discovered large, clandestine arsenals kept by the Zapatista National Liberation Army rebels in Mexico City and the Gulf coast state of Veracruz.

The caches included high-powered weapons such as hand grenades, mortar rounds and explosives, he said.

Federal agents also uncovered a conspiracy for widespread violence by the rebels, Mr. Zedillo said.

Mr. Zedillo, the ski-masked rebel leader and spokesman, and five other rebel leaders had been identified, he said. Arrest warrants were issued for them and seven others on charges including sedition, treason, terrorism and possessing military weapons banned for civilian use.

Mr. Zedillo said the army will help Federal Judicial Police make the arrests. He also ordered the army to increase patrols and help maintain order in the southern state of Chiapas, where the warrants were issued and where the Indian rebellion erupted on Jan. 1, 1994.

At last 145 people were killed in last year's uprising until a ceasefire was called after 12 days. Several attempts at negotiating peace with the rebels have floundered, but the ceasefire has remained in effect.

Attorney General Jose Antonio Lozano Gracis said one rebel chief was arrested Thursday in Mexico City, and seven people accused of conspiring with the rebels were arrested in Veracruz. The 13 arrest warrants were issued in Tuxtla Gutierrez, the Chiapas state capital.

Under the ceasefire, the government hadn't actively sought to capture Marcos, who attended peace talks with Interior Minister Esteban Moctezuma as recently as Jan. 15. Details of the talks, held near the guerrillas' stronghold in the Lacondon jungle, weren't released.

Mr. Zedillo said the Zapatistas had rejected a number of attempts to reach a peace accord by his administration — some even before he took office Dec. 1.

While the government is striving to negotiate peace, the Zapatistas "were preparing new and greater acts of violence, not only in Chiapas, but in other places in the country," Mr. Zedillo said.

The Zapatistas launched their New Year's rebellion to demand better living conditions and respect for human rights for Maya-descended Indians in Chiapas and for poor Mexicans nationwide.

But Mr. Zedillo called them the "leftovers" of a guerrilla group formed in 1969 in another state called the National Liberation Forces, which advocated seizing power through armed force.

National Liberation, a leftist guerrilla group, was active in the northern state of Nuevo Leon and in southern Guerrero state at the time, but was crushed by the army.

Mr. Zedillo said Marcos' real name is Rafael Sebastian Guillen Vicente, but gave no other information about him.

Mr. Zedillo had welcomed a proposal Jan. 31 by the rebels to turn their movement into a national political party. But the rebels later announced they would not disband.

The enigmatic, green-eyed rebel leader had captured the nation's imagination with his articulate defence of the rebels' cause. He was the subject of intense speculation over his real identity.

The Mexican News Agency, Notimex, said he is from Tampico, in northeastern Tamaulipas state, the son of a well-off family. His father,

Alfonso Guillen Guillen, is a businessman.

Notimex, citing family sources who insisted on anonymity, described him as being in his early 30s and said he had studied communications in Jesuit-run schools.

Mr. Zedillo identified the other leaders only as Fernando Yanez, Alias Subcommandante German; Jorge Javier Elorreaga Berdegué, alias Subcommandante Vicente; Jorge Santiago Santiago, and Silvia Fernandez Hernandez, Alias Subcommandante Sofia or Gabriele.

Ms. Fernandez Hernandez was the one arrested in Mexico City, the attorney general said.

No background on any of the rebel leaders name was immediately available.

The president announced he would call a special session of Congress on the conflict in Chiapas. He said he was submitting legislation to grant amnesty to Zapatistas who surrendered their weapons and joined the nation's political mainstream.

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All this "shows that far from preparing for a dialogue and negotiation, the (rebel) strategy was to gain time to arm and extend themselves to pre-empt more acts of violence," Mr. Zedillo said.

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A file photo dated February 1945 showing 50th anniversary of the raid that took place in the night of Feb. 13 and 14, 1945. Estimates of the casualties range from 35,000 to 135,000 (AFP PHOTO)

Dresden to mark bombing anniversary

DRESDEN, Germany (AFP) — British bombers flattened this eastern German city in a single night as the end of World War II neared, and the raid is still a matter of controversy 50 years later.

The ruins of the Church of Our Lady are a stark reminder of the death and destruction of Feb. 13, 1945, with between 25,000 and 35,000 people killed.

President Roman Herzog of Germany and the Duke of Kent from Britain and attending memorial ceremonies here. Also attending is the bishop of Coventry, the English city which was 80 per cent destroyed in German air attacks in November 1940.

There were as many casualties in other air raids in Germany, but Dresden remains symbolic of the German people's suffering.

Local university historian Reiner Marcowitz explained: "Dresden is a case apart because the whole city was razed in one go, there was no military reason for the operation, and the end of the war was close."

For the allies, the mission was a bid to demoralise the populace in order to hasten the end of the war. "The defeat of Germany was no longer in doubt, but there

was still terrible fighting." Mr. Marcowitz said. "The idea was to cut it short and so save the lives of troops."

The same thinking lay behind the use of the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where 180,000 Japanese were killed.

"The Allies did not know

the war would end three months later, they were still expecting lots of drawn out fighting on German soil," said Reiner Pommerin, another university lecturer here.

The British and Americans additionally did not want to be seen lagging behind the Soviets, who had just mounted a major offensive against the Nazis in the east and were no more than 120 kilometres (74 miles) from Dresden.

But the raid did not have

the desired effect of making residents rise up against the Nazi regime. Instead, they just stuck a bit more doggedly to the daily challenge of surviving.

The morning after, Dresden was like a scene from the Apocalypse. The historic city centre, a jewel of baroque architecture, was nothing but smoking ruins. Charred bodies littered the streets, some of them clinging helplessly to the fountains.

They had been trapped in a massive fireball several kilometres across, unleashed by an armada of more than 750 Lancaster bombers in two strikes at 11.03 p.m. and 1.23 a.m. At midday, 310 American bombers took it in turns to hit other districts.

"Those who did not leave their cellars died, burnt or suffocated, those who left too late died in the streets in the intense heat," remembers Goetz Bergander, 67, now a historian, who lived through the bombardment.

Dresden's population of

700,000 had been swollen at

the time by an influx of refugees fleeing the Soviet advance. It has never been clear how many there were. That gave rise to later years during Communist rule in East Germany to claims that the death toll had been between 200,000 and 400,000. It was a handy stick with which to beat the British and Americans during the cold war, while overlooking Soviet atrocities.

The generally accepted figure of 25,000 to 35,000 is

based on documentation historians were able to study after the fall of communism, including funeral parlour registers, and the number of bodies still being unearthed in the ruins into the 1950s.

Second mistrial for woman who castrated husband

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge declared a mistrial after a second jury failed to reach a verdict against a woman who cut off her husband's testicles with scissors. The jury deadlocked 7-5 in favour of acquitting Aurelia Macias, who attacked her husband of 17 years, Jaime Macias, in 1992. They have since reconciled. Prosecutors said they will decide by Feb. 28 whether to retry her. Mrs. Macias said she suffered years of physical, mental and sexual abuse. She testified in her first trial that she cut off her husband's testicles because he was about to rape her and she feared for her life. Prosecutors claimed she attacked her sleeping husband in a jealous rage because he had danced with another woman earlier that night. In her first trial, she was acquitted of mayhem and assault, but the jury deadlocked on battery. Over her husband's objections, prosecutors decided to retry her on the lesser charge. Prosecutors accused her of claiming she was a battered wife because it worked for Lorena Bobbitt, an Ecuadorian-born woman who cut off her husband's penis in 1993 and was acquitted by reason of temporary insanity. Unlike the Bobbitt case, doctors were unable to surgically reattach Macias' parts, found in the couple's bed by their 17-year-old son.

Baker promises success with potency bread

MOSCOW (R) — Biologist Igor Kuseltan says he knows from experience that his bread helps men more potent. He has tried it himself. "It definitely helps. I cannot say that you feel a change immediately, but after 10 or 11 days you feel the effect," the 74-year-old Russian said Thursday. "When a man's sexual energy starts to fade, a change in diet often helps." The bread, baked to a special recipe that includes wheat germ, low-fat milk powder, sugar and butter, was presented to journalists and Moscow shopkeepers Thursday. The small, oval loaves smell slightly sweet, but there is little to distinguish them from ordinary brown bread. "We keep the germ of the grain in the bread," said Mr. Kuseltan, who looks 20 years younger than he is. He sports a well-trimmed goatee, beared and wears a top-quality fur hat against the cold. "The germ is rich in Vitamin E, which increases sexual energy in human beings." Mr. Kuseltan said he first hit on the idea of special breads in 1972 when he was conducting research at Moscow's Academy of Medical Sciences. Female laboratory assistants noticed that mice and rats fed on a "full-ration diet" including wheat germ and powdered milk had sleek fur and bright eyes, and some of the workers said they wanted to try the formula themselves. To help them, Mr. Kuseltan developed a recipe for oat-wheat bread, but, due to Soviet-era restrictions on private business, never started baking it. "In those days scientists could only do research," he said, shrugging. It took 20 years to put the bread into production and Mr. Kuseltan had to set up his own company, Bioproduct, to construct the single-storey building that houses two walk-in ovens in a grimy residential estate in southern Moscow. The firm now produces one tonne of bread — 4,000 loaves — and sells them in local shops.

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Quayle drops out of presidential race

WASHINGTON (R) — Former Vice President Dan Quayle stunned the U.S. political world by dropping out of the race for the 1996 Republican presidential nomination, saying he did not want to disrupt his family.

"We were convinced that a winning campaign could have been accomplished and the necessary funds could have been raised," Mr. Quayle, 48, said in a four-paragraph written statement issued from the Indianapolis office where his campaign was being organised.

But he made it clear that Austria would remain neutral, and ducked the question of future membership of the organisation.

"We intend to focus our activities primarily on the areas of peace keeping, search and rescue and humanitarian operations," Mr. Mock said.

"By joining the Partnership for Peace, Austria becomes a partner of NATO and NATO-member countries with which we have always shared the common values of freedom and democracy, rule of law and market economy," Mr. Mock said.

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Despite his reference to finances, others said Mr. Quayle, who served one term as vice president under George Bush, wanted to avoid the struggle of raising the millions of dollars needed to compete.

Mr. Quayle said he made his decision late Wednesday

night after consulting with his family.

"Marilyn and I are deeply grateful to the many friends across the country who have offered their encouragement and support," he said. "We are truly blessed to have been held in the prayers of so many."

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Simpson jurors see most gory pictures yet

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson averted his eyes and a prosecutor warned the victims' relatives, "you don't want to look," as the jury saw the most gruesome photos of the bodies yet on a 7-foot (2-metre), full-colour screen.

The photos of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were the backdrop as the first police officer on the scene early on June 13 took the stand Thursday and offered some new details that the defence may seize upon to cast doubt on the estimated time of the murders at Ms. Simpson's condominium.

Among those details: A container of ice cream was found melting in the kitchen, and candles were burning in Ms. Simpson's bathroom and the tub was full, as if she had been planning a candlelit bath.

But under prosecution questioning designed to anticipate another Simpson line of defence, Officer Robert Riske stressed that he never stepped in the blood, that he warned others not to touch it and that he didn't touch any evidence.

They kind of gloss over it. They don't really train you," officer Riske said. When he knew, he said, he learned on the job, handling some 15 homicide cases.

Officer Riske, under questioning by prosecutor Marcia Clark, gave the defence an opening when he was asked if he had been trained at the police academy in how to preserve a crime scene.

Judith Brown, Ms. Simpson's mother, left as soon as the display began. Ms. Simpson's father, Lou Brown, stayed for a time, then left with tears in his eyes. Mr. Goldman's stepmother and sister stayed, sobbing quietly.

Jurors leaned forward in their seats and took notes as they saw what officer Riske had seen, a pathway covered in blood, a woman's body curled on its left side, a thick pool of blood under her head.

gloves, and that the phone inside Ms. Simpson's condo wasn't dusted for fingerprints before he used it. He also said pictures indicate a bloody envelope at Mr. Goldman's feet was moved.

Judge Lance Ito refused a defence request to play news footage of investigators walking through the crime scene. The judge said it was not the right time to bring it up.

The numerous colour pictures of the bodies at the murder scene were so graphic that the judge prevented them from being transmitted via television. He ordered TV and still photographers not to show them.

"You don't want to look," Mr. Clark warned the victims' family members in the audience.

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Under cross-examination

World News

Second mistrial
for woman who
castrated her
husband

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge declared a mistrial for a second jury to reach a verdict in the case of a woman who cut off her husband's testicles with a pair of pliers. The jury deadlocked in favour of acquitting the woman, who attacked her husband of 17 years, Macias, in 1992. The two have since reconciled. Prosecutors said they will decide whether to retry her. Macias said she'd never been physically abused. She said her first trial was unfair because her husband's testicles were cut off and she feared for her life. Prosecutors claimed she attacked her sleeping husband in a jealous rage because he had damaged another woman's ear. In her first trial, she was accused of rape, but the jury found her not guilty. The judge ruled that the prosecution's objection to the lesser charge was still valid. The trial was adjourned for a week.



In this picture released in Lima by the Peruvian government, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori (centre) watches as a wounded soldier is placed in a helicopter for evacuation.

Mr. Fujimori was visiting a military staging area (AFP photo)

Fighting erupts in Bihac; Bosnia holds U.N. worker

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian government troops fought to defend water supplies to the besieged town of Bihac Friday after weathering an earlier attack by Bosnian Serb forces in the embattled enclave, U.N. spokesman said.

Sniper fire also cracked out in a western suburb of Sarajevo, which was jolted by the most serious violation of a ceasefire Thursday evening when Serb forces unleashed a brief mortar barrage.

The arrest on spying charges of a Serb woman working for the United Nations relief mission also threatened to mar the truce, which has held through most of Bosnia since Jan. 1.

In Zagreb, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman said he wanted NATO troops to monitor Croatia's borders with Bosnia and Serbia when U.N. peacekeepers leave the country after March 31.

Clashes flared in Bihac Friday morning 15 kilometres west of Bihac town and spread to Klokot village, which troops of the Muslim-led government attacked on Jan. 14, secure a well supplying Bihac town.

"At the moment this attack threatens the retaking of the town water supply," U.N. spokesman Graham Day said.

The clashes followed a day of heavy shelling and ground fighting Thursday between government troops and Bosnian Serbs.

nian Serbs, whom the U.N. accused of launching a "calculated and deliberate attack."

Mr. Day was unable to say if Croatian or Bosnian Serbs were involved in Friday's combat. Serb troops have been fighting alongside Muslim rebels led by businessman Fikret Abdic in the enclave, where clashes have lasted for weeks despite the ceasefire.

A Bosnian Serb mortar attack shook Sarajevo Thursday evening. The U.N. said a local commander had taken exception to government troops digging trenches in breach of ceasefire terms.

Sarajevo has been under siege by Bosnian Serb forces since April 1992 after the UNHCR feared they risked being the targets of retaliation from Serbs angry at Ms. Boskovic's arrest, he said.

Mr. Tudjman, who has ordered U.N. peacekeepers to leave Croatia, said NATO troops would be more efficient and their presence on the borders with Bosnia could prevent rebel, Krajina Serbs from launching attacks on neighbouring Bihac enclave.

A peace plan proposed by Britain, France, Russia, the United States and Germany envisages dividing Bosnia into two roughly equal parts but the Serbs, who hold about 70 per cent of the country, have spurned it.

"We would really have no objections if NATO deployed along our international borders," he told a news conference in Zagreb.

Mr. Tudjman has ordered U.N. peacekeepers to leave Croatia, claiming their presence only shored up the rebel Serb breakaway Kra-

jina state encompassing one third of Croatia.

The decision has prompted international fears of a renewed war with the Serbs and diplomatic pressure has so far failed to persuade Zagreb to change its mind.

The UNHCR said Friday it was continuing its airlift of humanitarian aid into Sarajevo but that supplies would be stored at the airport and not transported into the city.

"The airlift is continuing but food will not be brought into the city. It will be temporarily stored at the airport," said Mr. Janowski.

Local staff daily have to cross the front lines and the UNHCR feared they risked being the targets of retaliation from Serbs angry at Ms. Boskovic's arrest, he said.

The UNHCR said that for security reasons, it was suspending its airlift of food and supplies into Sarajevo after Bosnian police detained two of its employees at a checkpoint.

The agency feared that its local drivers transporting supplies from the airport to the city could be endangered at Bosnian Serb checkpoints as long as the two employees were being held.

But Mr. Janowski said that "senior UNHCR management thought it (the airlift) was too important to stop," and later reconsidered their decision.

He said Bosnian authorities had told the U.N. that one of the employees detained, a Croatian national, was released Friday.

Manila rules out armed response to Spratlys

MANILA (R) — The Philippines said Friday that China's occupation of a reef in parts of the South China Sea claimed by Manila would not lead to conflict.

"Aggression is not an option and I believe that at this point there is some agreement between us and the People's Republic of China," Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo said.

The Philippines released pictures Thursday showing military-looking Chinese vessels and substantial structures built on stilts above Mischief reef, it has virtually no ability to project military-power beyond its major islands.

"It is not going to lead to any clash because there is no capacity on this side to do anything about it," a Western military diplomat said.

China, pushing aside Philippine President Fidel

Ramos's complaint that Beijing is breaking international law, has claimed the structures were built to shelter its fishermen.

Manila has little option but to take its complaints to its five partners in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and try to raise other international support.

United States Ambassador John Negroponte called on China and the Philippines to solve the dispute peacefully.

"We fully support the Manila Declaration of 1992 that calls on all parties to settle this issue through peaceful means and, meanwhile, to exercise restraint," he told reporters after meeting Mr. Romulo.

The Manila Declaration urged the six nations which claim all or parts of the Spratlys' scattered isles and reefs — China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam and the Philippines — to settle the long-running dispute peacefully.

The Spratly Islands are possibly rich in oil and mineral

UNESCO: World should not help African dictators

PARIS (R) — A major U.N. conference Friday urged elected African leaders to go to the polls within two years and asked the international community to withhold aid from dictators.

"Freedom is a basic issue and democracy an imperative in Africa," it declared.

The call came at the end of a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) conference in Paris of some 500 African government officials, private groups and international cooperation agencies.

The "Audience Africa" conference did not give names but unelected African leaders include Nigeria's military ruler General Sani Abacha, Sudan's President Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Bashir and Gambia's Lieutenant Yaya Jammeh.

Others in the same category are Sierra Leone's Captain Valentine Strasser, Ethiopia's President Meles

and young graduates could be enrolled in "knowledge brigades" in a two-year national service to eradicate illiteracy.

The document said African countries should join efforts and boost exchanges to develop science and technology which should focus on meeting basic needs — food production, health care, solar and other renewable energy sources.

It said African states should devote 0.4 to 0.5 per cent of GDP to development research by the end of the century, and that researchers should gain access to the world's scientific and technological information highways.

African researchers should be at least bilingual in order to benefit from efforts throughout the continent, and governments should study the ways of jointly protecting the environment and exploiting natural resources, the draft document said.

The document listed illiteracy, economic stagnation,

Ecuador leader travels to front; Peru announces new casualties

No progress reported at Brasilia talks

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Ecuadorian and Peruvian army patrols clashed repeatedly in heavy fighting along their disputed jungle border, prompting Ecuador's president to flee to the front.

President Sixto Duran-Ballén Thursday visited staging areas for military operations and field hospitals where wounded were being treated.

Peruvian warplanes attacked Coangos and Base Sur, two Ecuadorian border posts at the headwaters of Cenepa River, Ecuador's Joint Military Command said.

During peace talks in Brazil, Ecuador proposed a "humanitarian truce" to allow each side to remove the rotting bodies of soldiers killed in recent days.

Ecuadorian soldiers interviewed by Quito television stations said the stench from the bodies was inescapable around border posts that have come under Peruvian attack.

Peru did not immediately respond to the truce offer.

In Lima, Gen. Victor Malca said Peruvian troops were meeting fierce resistance in trying to take Tintinza, one of three Ecuadorian military posts located in territory Peru claims as its own.

He said Peruvian forces were fighting their way up a jungle-shrouded 1,000-foot (300-metre) hill where the post is situated, but Ecuadorian soldiers at the top were dug in and better positioned for firing on Peru's forces.

The president of Peru, Alberto Fujimori, said Thursday night 36 Peruvian soldiers have been killed and 60 wounded in two weeks of fighting. He said the country also lost two helicopters and a plane. The seven crew members were among those killed.

The agency feared that its local drivers transporting supplies from the airport to the city could be endangered at Bosnian Serb checkpoints as long as the two employees were being held.

But Mr. Janowski said that "senior UNHCR management thought it (the airlift) was too important to stop," and later reconsidered their decision.

He said Bosnian authorities had told the U.N. that one of the employees detained, a Croatian national, was released Friday.

soldiers have died and 28 have been wounded.

Gen. Malca described the terrain in the disputed area as "treacherous" with dangerous ravines invisible because of the thick vegetation. He said torrential rains fall constantly and temperatures reach 104 degrees F (40 degrees C).

The disputed border is located on the jungle-covered eastern slopes of the Andes, 220 miles (350 kilometres) southeast of Quito and 600 miles (1,000 kilometres) north of Lima, the Peruvian capital.

Meanwhile, negotiators for both countries met for the third day in Brasilia, but no progress was reported.

Representatives of the governments of Brazil, Argentina, Chile and the United States also were taking part. The four nations are the guarantors of a 1942 treaty that ended a war between the countries and gave Peru a huge swath of jungle territory

across the Andes to the coast.

"We are losing up on the one hand and they're attacking us on the other," Mr. Ahumada told Radioprogramas Del Peru. "It's getting complicated. In a way, they are helping Ecuador.

Ecuador declared the treaty null and void in 1960 before the last 48 miles (77 kilometres) of the 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometres) border were marked.

In Quito, a national Indian organisation called for the urgent intervention of the Organisation of American States and the United Nations to halt the fighting.

"We regret that our

brothers of the Shuar, Ashuar and Quechua indigenous nations are caught in the middle of the military attacks," said Luis Macas, president of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador.

Andes, authorities said Thursday.

Provincial Mayor Oscar Ahumada said police had been called away to protect Peru's main oil pipeline when a column of 25 to 30 members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement attacked their post in Chontal.

One person was killed and the guerrillas took control of the district, authorities said.

It was not clear if the town was still in guerrilla hands. Police in Jaen contacted by Reuters refused to comment on the incident.

Mr. Ahumada told Radioprogramas Del Peru that the army had called police away from the district to take up positions defending the Nor Peruano Line from possible Ecuadorian attack. The pipeline carries crude from Amazon oil fields across the Andes to the coast.

"We are losing up on the one hand and they're attacking us on the other," Mr. Ahumada told Radioprogramas Del Peru. "It's getting complicated. In a way, they are helping Ecuador.

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In a separate development, leftist guerrillas, taking advantage of Peru's preoccupation with the border conflict with Ecuador seized a town in Peru's northern



An Ecuadorian soldier guards his jungle post at the Ecuadorian border with Peru at Soldado Monge southeast of Quito (AFP photo)

Mandela makes pilgrimage to Robben Island

ROBBEN ISLAND, South Africa (R) — President Nelson Mandela led hundreds of other ex-political detainees on an emotional pilgrimage on Friday to South Africa's Robben Island — a speck of rock that was his prison for 18 years.

The Philippines released pictures Thursday showing Chinese vessels and substantial Chinese-built structures on or part of the Spratlys that is claimed by Manila.

China said it was building new facilities on what it referred to as the Meijiiao to ensure the safety and lives of Chinese fishermen and their work in the area.

The spokesman reaffirmed Vietnamese sovereignty over the Spratlys and urged claimants to maintain the status quo pending a permanent solution through negotiations.

"While trying to accelerate talks to find basic and permanent solution, it is necessary to maintain stability on the basis of the status quo," he said.

"The concerned parties should control themselves, not conduct actions to further complicate the situation, and not use force or threaten to use force."

The text of a plaque that will be unveiled by Mr. Mandela reads: "Embedded in these stones you will find the pain of our struggle. The sorry of losses and the foundation of our victory."

Provincial Premier Tokyo Sexwale, who spent 13 years

on the island and married his white lawyer days after his release in 1990, told Reuters on the beach:

"It was freedom to come and work, to make roads and listen to the water. That was the only freedom we knew. We're tracing back our footsteps. We have many of us left our youth and part of our souls on this island."

Former prisoners hugged each other and exchanged memories, some painful and some humorous, as they pointed out landmarks such as a breakwater where they were forced to collect guano.

"It's like a dream to me," said Anthony Gazi, who was released from the island in 1979.

"We have gotten over it, we can laugh about it now," he said as he stepped ashore on the concrete pier of the island that was for thousands of South Africans the country's most notorious prison.

The pilgrimage includes a visit to the limestone quarry where Mr. Mandela and thousands of other apartheid foes chipped rock.

The quarry's fine dust and reflection of the harsh sunlight left the president with eye problems that resulted in recent operations. He also



Picture taken from Sky TV showing astronauts Mike Foale (right) and Bernhard Harris emerging from the airlock onboard the U.S. space shuttle Discovery for their historic space walk (AFP photo)

metres) of Mir, close enough for shuttle cosmonaut Vladimir Titov to make eye contact with friends inside the space station that was his home for 366 days in the late 1980s.

Com. Wetherbee said a telephone call was the only thing he had shared with Alexander Viktorenko, Elena Kondakova and Valery Polyakov before Monday.

"Suddenly, we met over the Pacific Ocean in the void and blackness of space, and we... could wave and smile at

them," he said.

Discovery blasted the trail for shuttle Atlantis, which another crew of astronauts and cosmonauts will dock at Mir in June — the first such linkup since the July 1975 demonstration of orbital detente known as the Apollo-Soyuz test project.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) characterised the action-packed mission as one of the most demanding in the history of shuttle flights.

Jordan Times

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Ultimate win in peace

AMIDST ALL the concern about the deadlocked Syrian-Israeli negotiating track, the visit of a trio representing the European Union (EU) to Syria and Israel represents a window of opportunity that could move things forward between the two countries.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, who headed the EU delegation, was unequivocal about Europe's faith and commitment to the peace process as a comprehensive phenomenon. "The peace process," Mr. Juppe declared in Damascus, "is irreversible and should go forward on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, full normalization between Syria and Israel and the search for security arrangements approved by both parties."

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa was no less emphatic about his country's commitment to pursue peace with Israel, something that he described as a strategic objective. "Syria," Mr. Sharaa pointed out in no uncertain terms at a joint news conference with the European trio Wednesday, "is convinced that should Israel be serious about reaching a just and comprehensive peace and a genuine progress on the Syrian track, the matter wouldn't require more than a few months." This upbeat Syrian posture tallies with previous Syrian pronouncements that called for "full withdrawal in return for full peace." Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin also edged closer to meeting Syrian terms for peace when he declared Thursday that his government would entertain full withdrawal from the Syrian Heights with the exception of the high ridge closest to Israel.

Yet given the near mutiny within the Labour Party on the issue of withdrawal from the Syrian Heights and the Israeli consensus calling for holding a referendum before Israel would commit itself to complete relinquishment of the Heights, there appears to be many stiff obstacles on the path of the Syrian-Israeli front. No doubt Rabin of all people knows deep in his heart that there is no way to conclude a peace deal with Damascus short of full withdrawal from occupied Syrian lands. The international community also shares this assessment. Sooner or later the Israeli public opinion must be educated into accepting this inevitable conclusion. It would be most unfortunate to hold up the comprehensive nature of the peace process over an issue that can be better resolved by reciprocal security arrangements. The dangers of a lasting standoff on the Syrian-Israeli front are infinitely more complex than the possible dangers for Israel following a full withdrawal from Syrian territory.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES
A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily reflected on the current situation in the Middle East resulting from Israel's escalation of tension and its adamant stand with regard to Arab rights. It seems that it is an Israeli habit to escalate tension and step up repressive measures against the Palestinians whenever the Jewish state reaches a peace accord with an Arab party, said Mahmoud Rimawi. It was in the wake of the Camp David accord that Israel escalated its raids on Lebanon that led to the 1982 invasion of that country, he said. The writer recalled that after the Oslo accord with the Palestinian leadership, Israel stepped up its repressive measures against the Palestinians. After the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, the Jewish state sealed the whole of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in an unprecedented manner, he said. It seems that through this policy, Israel is trying to push the Arab parties to succumb to its conditions and terms and make peace with it, said the writer. Never before has Israel's repression reached the present dimensions in the occupied Arab lands, and never before had the Israelis shown such obstinacy in their dealings with the Arabs, said the writer. He said that the peace deals with the Jewish state seem to have given the Israeli government further encouragement to pursue its atrocities against the Arab Nation.

AL RA'I daily discussed the Arab-Israeli-American meeting held in Taba, describing its results as vitally important to the future development of the region. The Taba conference is important since it paved the way for the Amman economic conference due later this year and secured pledges on the part of the participants to attend the conference and make it succeed, said the paper.

Jordanian Perspective

The end of a disturbing era

FEB. 9 will go down in the history of Jordan as the day when the Kingdom regained its full territorial rights with the completion of Israeli military withdrawal from the last of its land and when the proud Jordanian Armed Forces hoisted the Jordanian flag in the evacuated land.

The return of the land to Jordan was more than just symbolic. Indeed every grain of sand in those territories is dear to every Jordanian, but beyond that is the reality that the full restoration of Jordanian land to Jordanian sovereignty also ends a deeply disturbing era in our life and opens a new chapter.

In the new chapter, we Jordanians face an immense challenge — a challenge that is much more difficult to confront than bullets in the battlefield. It is a challenge of nation-building, away from the preoccupations of tension and conflict.

What Jordan has achieved along with regaining its territorial rights is a large measure of valuable goodwill of the world. Our record throughout recent history talks volumes of our commitment to peace and coexistence, and the courage of our leadership in making peace with Israel has taken us beyond the threshold of just friendly relations with every country in the world.

But it is not enough that the international community looks at Jordan with admiration and appreciation. That would only provide us with the impetus needed to launch national construction in the era of peace. We face the challenge of having to prove to the world that we are indeed worthy of respect and admiration also in the context of nation-building with all that it entails.

Given the limited natural resources of Jordan, we face the task of inviting foreign capital and resources into the country and that can be done only through bringing about

sweeping changes in the country. We have to be completely forward looking and strive to keep one step ahead in the fierce international race for capital. International goodwill can be measured in terms of politics, but when it comes to actual movement of capital and resources what counts is the investment climate and the incentives that we offer to potential investors. That indeed means changes to laws and regulations.

Of course, the government, guided by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, has gone a considerable way in meeting the requirements of the peace era, but there is no escape from the feeling that something is amiss, perhaps in the pace of the required reform in the context of our bureaucracy.

His Majesty King Hussein told the government three weeks ago to do what is needed to bring about the changes that are inevitable if Jordan is to hope for realistically benefit from the dividends of peace. Obviously it also means the elimination of old wood in our ministries and government departments. We do not know yet how far the government has already moved in this direction, but it seems to be obvious that the pace of the move has to be speedy if we are to catch up with the requirements of the day.

No doubt some of the decisions facing the government are painful and difficult, but then the very fact is that Jordan is entering a new era where many of the considerations and reasons that held up back in making sweeping changes should no longer a factor.

Similarly, we also need to see quick changes in our legislation related to foreign capital and investments. Of course draft laws and amendments are on the table, but our executive and legislative authorities seem to be taking their

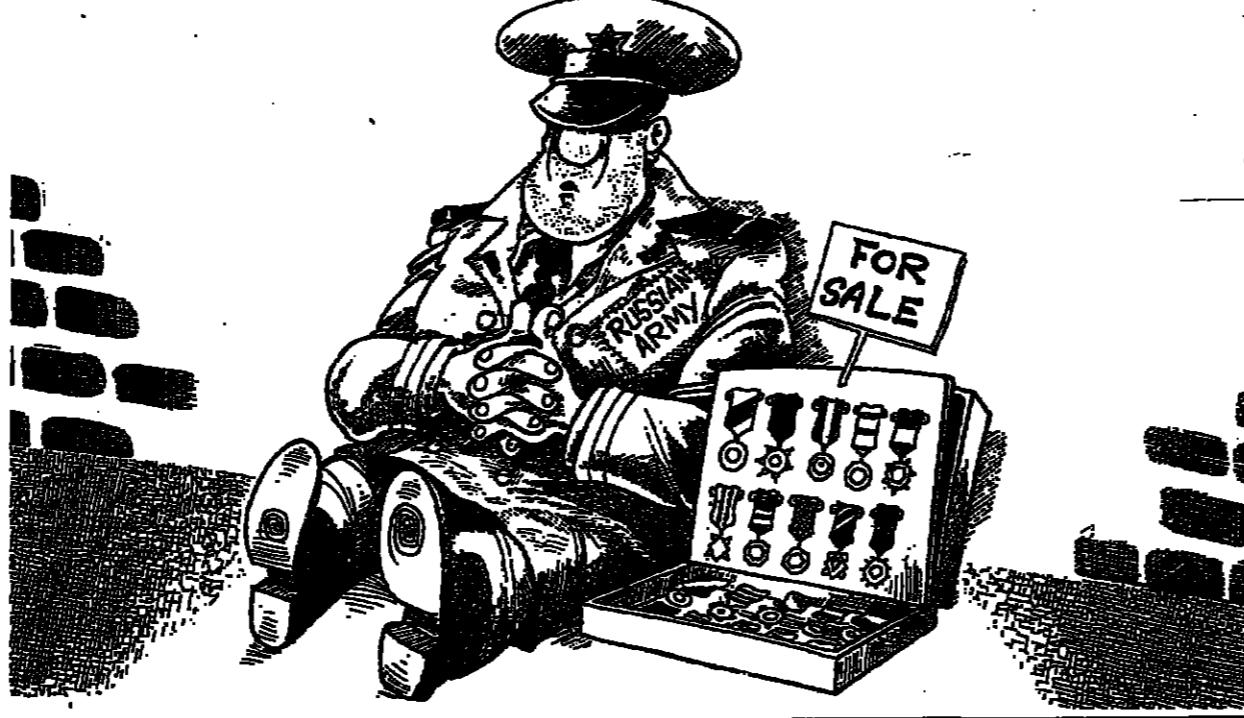
own time getting to them.

It is with deep apprehension that many of us are watching precious days being lost. Under the new world order or otherwise, regional conflicts are being settled so fast that the givens in the international capital market are changing since new opportunities are emerging in many parts of the world for the right investor with the right approach. For instance, can we Jordan offer the same climate, and incentive as Brazil? For South Africa or Vietnam for that matter? Whether we like it or not, these are realities in the scene today and it is our job to transform ourselves into a totally new economic phase where practicalities dictate our course.

We are not short of highly skilled young people to take the helm of our new course and steer us towards new horizons where our country could really reap the benefits of peace. Taking our own time in designating the right speed of international developments.

As U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown pointed out on Wednesday, Jordan has taken positive steps, but it needs to do more, whether in terms of revamping customs duties in changing legislation that protects copyright and intellectual property rights. Well, these are decisions that the government has to adopt, while keeping in clear sight the very interest of the nation. The course that is right for Jordan need not necessarily be in the precise direction that the U.S. or any other country for that matter might want us to take. But we do have to listen to the international voices, whether from the East or West and weigh our options carefully, but quickly. Time is not on our side.

M. KAHIL



Violence will not end before its roots are addressed

By Elias Nasrallah

FAKHRI SALEH, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the Arab-Israeli summit held in Cairo was designed by the Arabs to put some kind of pressure on Israel to implement the Oslo and Cairo agreements but was for the Israelis a means to direct world attention to what the Jewish state calls Islamist terrorism. The writer said that the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, had sought to dedicate the meeting to fighting terrorism as a way to cover up for Israel's procrastinations over the implementation of deal with the Palestinian leadership. He said while the Arabs hoped such summit would result in further momentum for the peace process, the Israelis had totally different designs because they are determined to keep the occupation in place and to avoid the requirements of a just and durable peace.

Al Aswaq newspaper said that the way to end acts of violence and terrorism lies in tackling the causes of unrest and not the outcome. It is up to the Arabs to rid the whole area of violence and acts of terrorism by ending its occupation and giving the Palestinians their legitimate rights rather than expecting from the Palestine National Authority (PNA) to crack down on opponents of the peace deals with the Jewish state, said the daily. The statement that followed the Cairo Arab-Israeli summit emphasised the need for the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian deals and activating the peace process on the Lebanese and the Syrian tracks, said the paper. It said that what remains to be seen is whether Israel is ready and willing to meet the Arabs halfway and comply with the requirements of peace.

The so-called peace coalition meeting in Cairo in the past week was marked by pledges and promises on the Palestinian, Jordanian, Egyptian, and Israeli parts, said Taher Al Adwan in Al Dustour. The writer said, the contents of the final state-

ment that summed up the deliberations said that Israel has pledged to honour its commitments on the Palestinian track, provided that the Palestinians deal with the so-called terrorism and on condition that Egypt forgets about its demands that Israel sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The writer said that Israel is making it a condition on the Palestinian leaders to put an end to attacks on the Israelis so that the Jewish state can honour its promises. But it is clear that the Israeli government is bound to remain adamant and would fail to honour any of these commitments simply due to the Palestinian's determination to secure their freedom through resistance, which Israel

in Israel in the coming parliamentary elections. The writer said that the Likud has a different programme than that adopted by the Israeli Labour Party with regard to the question of peace and withdrawal from occupied Arab lands. He said that the Likud Party leader is now advocating a new policy, which entails the perpetuation of occupation of the West Bank and the Golan Heights and a continuous siege on Gaza Strip. Such ideas can never serve the cause of peace and make it incumbent on the Arabs to resort to their armed forces to ensure the freedom of their occupied territories, said the writer.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that Mr. Rabin, who leads his Labour Party, is in fact

implementing programmes drawn up by the opposition Likud Party. This means that the two parties in Israel are two faces of the same coin and outbidding one another in imposing repressive measures on the Palestinian people, said Mr. Rimawi. Mr. Rabin's meeting with the Arab leaders in Cairo seems to have given him further self-confidence in his repressive policies because no sooner had he returned home than he declared stricter measures to be imposed on the Palestinian people, said the writer.

Tareq Masa'weh, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the Jordanian and Palestinian people are deeply frustrated over the attitudes of Israel and the United States vis-a-vis the peace process. In return for very limited financial assistance to the Palestine National Authority (PNA), the Israelis and the Americans are gearing this authority towards imposing strict measures to curb the attacks of those who oppose the peace with Israel, said the writer. For its part, Jordan has been promised a writing off of part of its foreign debts in exchange for serious commitments to working to-

wards a new Middle Eastern economy which entails lifting all the boycott regulations against Israel, said the writer. Israel expects its goods to flow freely into Jordan and beyond but is reluctant to open its markets for Arab goods, something which, the writer said, can by no means achieve any justice or establish stability and peace.

Ibrahim Al Absi, a writer in Al Ra'i, said that Israel has placed three land mines in the way of peace and is challenging the Arabs and defying the whole world through its adamant stand.

The writer said one of the mines is represented in the Jewish settlement programme, which is continuing against U.N. resolutions and in defiance of the world community. The second mine is represented in Israel's claim that the united city of Jerusalem remains its eternal capital, thus making a mockery of all U.N. resolutions which clearly state that the eastern part of the city is an occupied territory, he said.

The third mine is represented in Israel's refusal to sign the NPT, thus posing a continuous threat to the Arab countries and world peace, according to the writer.

Mohammad Subeih, a columnist in Al Dustour, called on the government to impose some sort of martial law to stem the greed of the merchants during the month of Ramadan. The writer said that the government can issue "defence orders" by which it can impose very severe punishments on manipulators and profiteers and save the limited-income groups and the needy from the endless rise in prices. The writer said official departments concerned with dealing with the situation can join hands with the private organisations and voluntary groups to put an end to this crime, and it is the duty of all citizens to report violations. The writer said that the Ministry of Supply should be empowered to authorise the police to arrest violators; close down stores and refer the greedy merchants to court.

WHEN NABIL Shaath starts talking about the "third option," the "nightmare option" as he calls it — you realise how close the Arab-Israeli "peace" has come to collapse. The third option is what he calls "total conflict," the collapse of the Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho, a return to the intifada, all-out war between Arab and Jew. In the event of the third option, he says, "the odds are on a very bloody conflict that would not be like it was before — both parties would resort to brutalities... militant Islamists will have grounds for recruiting even more suicide bombers."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's closest adviser speaks eloquently, fearfully, of this option. His remaining optimism is almost as brave as his ability to fear the worst. Management consultant, philatelist, Mr. Shaath is having to contemplate failure ever more frequently. "The peace process is in deep trouble" he says, "And if it collapses, what will happen?" You realise then that the PLO has been talking about just such a possibility, that they have been staring into the darkness for the first time.

The Arab-Israeli "summit of hope" in Cairo has not fooled the Palestinians. No date was set for long-postponed Palestinian elections on the West Bank, no date agreed for further Israeli "redeployment," no promises made of an end to Jewish settlement on Arab land. Mr. Shaath's nimble mind has therefore been moving between the best and worst of all possible worlds, acknowledging failure and contemplating hope while excoriating those Palestinians who choose to oppose him.

There are now three possible outcomes. The first is an alternative peace process in which we would go straight to the final settlement talks on Jerusalem and Jewish settlements, the return of 1948 and 1967 Palestinian refugees, abandoning the interim settlement (elections and peace) to the Arab countries and world peace, according to the writer.

"Most of (the Islamic) Hamas's actions directed against the Israelis are in fact directed against us, to make us hit at them, to foment civil war or to make us look impotent to the Israelis."

Mr. Shaath is now demanding the "Egyptian model" for peace. "Egypt took every Jewish settler and every settlement out and this produced a real peace. And in the West Bank, every settler and every settlement has got to go."

Jerusalem can be a capital for two nations, he says, "If the United States recognises all Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, that will end the peace process." He even talks about returning 1948 refugees to Galilee, inside Israel itself.

The *Independent*

Advertisement

The Islamic Revolution: The miracle of the century

In The Name of Allah, The Merciful, The Compassionate



THE ELEVENTH of February marks the anniversary of a Revolution that gained victory in 1979 and revived a new life for the Iranian people. On Feb. 11, Islam was reborn, the genuine Islam that invites not only the Muslims, but also the followers of divine religions and the entire human beings, disregarding the race and the nationality, to peace, friendship and coexistence.

This Revolution brought good hopes for a society, whose exemplary security has created the most ideal climate for a social coexistence.

Jewish, Christian, Zoroastrian and other religious minorities living in Iran enjoy equal social rights with Muslims. Iranian people are of Aryan origin, but they have mixed with other ethnic groups like Arabs, Turks, Kurds and Lors in the course of history. Nevertheless, ethnic groups like Kurds, Lors, Arabs, Turks, Baluchies and Turkmenians speak their own language beside the country's official language (Persian) while preserving their cultural independence.

It is for the blessing of this Revolution that today the Islamic Republic of Iran has been termed as the island of peace and stability in the Middle East, while in some regional countries social tensions, sectarian strife, and civil turmoil have become an increasing trend. The Islamic Republic of Iran that owes its victory to the sacrifices offered and the blood shed by the brave and valiant youth of this land, survived all sorts of machinations, ranging from the imposed war, economic blockade, and the freezing of Iranian assets. Furthermore no incident of any magnitude whether devastating earthquake, or the colossal floods or even the sorts of problems that are associated with the Third World countries, the least of which are the economic constraints, have withered the resoluteness of the Revolution to bring about the ideal society it has promised to the great nation of Iran and its future generations.

A society that encourages its entire members to devotedly, and dynamically pursue construction in all social, economic, cultural and other various fields of activity, and to found a modern politico-social system, on the basis of the Islamic tenets that will put an end to suppression, injustice, corruption and decadence, and to present that system to the world community, particularly the Islamic World. A society, where even the prisons have been converted into educational centres for convicts to attend different vocational training courses, and become useful citizens.

All such achievements were made possible in Iran because of the blessing and the impression the Islamic Revolution on the Iranian people. There is no doubt that the strong belief and conviction of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in politico-economic development the rise leadership of the late leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (peace be upon him) and his rightful successor, Ayatollah Khamenei, and also the timely initiatives and decisions adopted by His Excellency Mr. Rafsanjani the Honourable President of Islamic Republic of Iran, have been very instrumental in such accomplishments.

During the past years the Islamic Republic of Iran has given shelter to millions of refugees from neighbouring countries. Due to unending tension in those countries, there has been a sharp increase in the influx of refugees, and presently the Islamic Republic of Iran is hosting the greatest number of refugees in the world, and has so far provided the best possible services to these refugees with its limited resources, receiving the least amounts of international assistance compared with what is made available to the other countries. From political point of view, the Islamic Republic has pursued its independent foreign policy, and heedless of the big world powers, zealously campaigning for the establishment of peace and tranquillity in the region and has always advocated this noble idea that expansionist policies have to be removed from the global equations. The Islamic Republic of Iran continuously insists on detente at global level, and at regional level particularly in Middle East Central Asia and the Caucasus, on the basis of U.N. Charter and international law and conventions. The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believes that on the basis of the principle of self-determination, aggression and violation of the rights of other nations, have to be ended and their motherlands have to be liberated from foreign occupation. It is also of the opinion that differences and disputes between countries have to be settled peacefully through negotiations and understanding.

The statesmen of the Islamic Republic of Iran have devotedly worked for achieving prosperity and economic growth in spite of all difficulties and existing shortages and the complicated conditions in world politics. A thorough analysis of the performance of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is required here to give a brighter picture of the accomplishments. Reviewing the performance of the

Iranian government during the 5 Years Plan of Economic and Socio-Cultural Development in its entirety would not be possible through these limited pages, hence a summary of what has been done will be presented as follows:

1. Reconstruction of war stricken areas that include five provinces, tens of big and small cities, hundreds of thousands of residential quarter, factories, industries, hospitals, bridges, educational centres etc., and especially the reconstructions of Abadan and Kermanshah.

2. Reconstruction of quake-stricken areas in Gilan and Zanjan provinces.

3. The government embarked on a huge programme to extend health services to even the remotest areas of the country, the result of which is more than 4,340 new clinics, 2,810 new health care centres for medical treatment in rural areas were constructed, and more than 827,000 children under 6 years of age were covered by the immunisation system. In addition to that more than 1,200 new clinics were established for workers. The infant mortality rate of decreased from 45 to 35 for every one thousand. The mortality rate of the mothers was also reduced by half compared with the previous figure. Proper plans were also formulated and carried out to eradicate deadly diseases.

4. With the success obtained in population control during the first plan, according to which the population growth rate was reduced from 3.27 to 2.37, now it is hoped that growth rate will be reduced by 1.87 at the end of the second plan.

5. The number of university professors and instructors at medical schools have been increased by 160 per cent. The existence of 18 million school and university students in this country of 56 million population in 1992 reveals that about a third of the total population are somehow taking part in the process of education.

6. In the agricultural field, there was a remarkable increase in wheat, rice, sugar beet, cotton and cereal production. This gained the country \$11 billion annually. While 28 per cent of the country's manpower are engaged in agriculture, agricultural productions comprise 30 per cent of the non-oil export of the country. The average growth rate during the first four years in agriculture sector was 6.3 per cent.

7. During the first five-year development plan some of the largest investments in the history of Iran materialised one after the other. They included Bandar Imam Petrochemical Complex, Arak Petrochemical Complex, Copper



The two thousand-year-old historical fortress at the Arg-i-Bam is one of the tourist sights in Kerman that is reminiscent of the details of old-time life.

Complex, the Copper manufacturing complex in Sarakhs-Mashhad railway projects will ultimately link east Asian and new independent republics to our railways network which will connect European network to Asia, and the east Asian network will link with the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf.

8. The Islamic Republic of Iran has about 4,847 kilometres of network of main roads and about 1,184 kilometres of secondary commercial and industrial roads that traverse 16 provinces. Presently, 3,705 kilometres of main roads are also under construction.

Presently, about 2,000 kilometres of railways tracks are under construction and plans for 8,000 kilometres of railways throughout the vast area of Iran are being studies.

Bafq-Bandar Abbas and Sarakhs-Mashhad railway projects will ultimately link east Asian and new independent republics to our railways network which will connect European network to Asia, and the east Asian network will link with the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf.

9. Estimation of non-oil exports during the second Economic Development plan is about 24.5 billion which shows an increase of 109 per cent compared to the total value of non-oil exports during the First Development plan which was estimated at \$11.717 billion.

Iran's oil reserves are

estimated at 89 billion barrels which equals to 10 per cent of the total global reserve. Meanwhile Iran's natural gas resources is one of the largest in the Middle East and second in the world. It is estimated at 17 trillion square feet. These two natural products are the main sources of re-

venues. Iran attaches special importance to the consumption of natural gas because it is more economical and at the same time reduces air pollution. Following the victory of Islamic Revolution more than 1,250,000 new households and workshops have been connected to the home and industrial gas network. The Isfahan steel Mill is one of the establishments that use natural gas. The project for supplying gas to Europe, one of the biggest projects of Iranian oil industry, will provide a new source of energy for European countries.

The Islamic Republic of

Iran, while playing its constructive role at the economic, social and cultural arenas, is also committed and determined to contribute to the advancement of human civilisation. To this end, despite the constraints and pressure by the arrogant world powers the government has taken fundamental strides in better-

Israel completes pullout

(Continued from page 1)

(the other Arabs involved in peace talks with Israel) will achieve what we have和平 and will have peace in the region."

The peace treaty restored to Jordan all the land that was occupied by Israel in the north in 1950 and in the south after the 1967 war. A definite figure on the area restored to Jordanian territory would be known in terms of square kilometres only after the process of demarcation is completed with concrete pillars along the borders. It could take several months, but the area is between 340 and 380 square kilometres, officials said.

The formal compilation of Israel's evacuation of the Jordanian land that began on Jan. 30 was marked in simultaneous ceremonies held near this northern Jordanian village and also in the southern Al Ghazan area.

Brigadier-General Abed Khalaf, commander of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division in the north, and Major-General Mohammad Milkaoui, commander of Jordan's southern region based in Aqaba, met with their Israeli counterparts near the new marked borders and took over the evacuated territories

and moved their units forward.

The 832-dunum plot in the north, occupied by Israel since 1950, offers Jordan strategic access to the confluence of the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers. The newly marked border places the Jordanian fence about two kilometres westwards, including an area where Israelis from a nearby kibbutz have been tilling.

Under the peace treaty, Jordan will allow the Israeli farmers to enter the area and continue their farming activities with its eastern neighbour.

"To be frank, I feel bad that now I need special permits to enter an area we have been farming for many years," said Yonathan Atar, a resident of Ashdod Yacov, about two kilometres from the Jordanian border.

"But, the land is being returned to Jordanian sovereignty for the good cause of peace, and that is more important," he added. "We are happy that peace has been achieved."

In return, Israel undertakes "not to carry out or allow to be carried out in the area activities prejudicial to the peace or security of Jordan," not to allow unauthorised persons to enter the

area or anyone to "carry weapons of any kind in the area; unless authorised by the licensing authorities in Jordan ... (and) not to allow the dumping of waste from outside this area."

Several Israeli farmers and kibbutz residents among the nearly 300 Israelis gathered for the signing of Jordanian-Israeli cooperation agreements at a ceremony on the Israeli side of the border, said they felt the return of the land to Jordan was worth the peace that Israel now has with its eastern neighbour.

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The history of the land

(Continued from page 1)

city of Jordan. The sites will not be used for military purposes and no one will be allowed to carry weapons except with Jordanian government permission under the existing licensing procedures for firearms in the Kingdom.

The 830 dunums in the north have no relation with a 6,000-dunum plot where the Palestine Electricity Company (owned by the Jewish Agency, the predecessor of Israel), operated a hydroelectric power plant. The plant was built and operated under a concession granted by the British mandate authorities in 1926 in the personal name of Pinhas Rothenburg — thus the area came to be known as the Rothenburg project.

Wasfi Bisharat, a Jordanian entrepreneur, had also sought the concession, but the mandate authorities assured him that nearby Jordanian areas will be supplied by the Palestine Electricity Company, which is now the Israeli Electricity Company.

The Rothenburg project involved building a diver-

bombed out shells of thousands of housing units which were once occupied by Rothenburg employees. The trunks of hundreds of palm trees surrounding the hydro-electric plant remain black, a reminder of the ferocity of the 1948 war.

While the pre-Rothenburg ownership of the land could not be established on a dunum-to-dunum basis, "there was nothing illegal about the purchase," said Dr. Haddad.

"All the prevailing laws and regulations were followed."

The Rothenburg project was closed down in 1938 "because of financial and technical reasons," said Dr. Haddad. Israel had not pushed into the 832 dunums situated directly opposite to the Rothenburg project in 1950 "not because of the importance of the hydroelectric project" since the entire project was destroyed in the 1948 war.

Obviously Israel wanted to deny Jordan access to the confluence of the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers.

Today, one can see the wrecked ruins of the hydroelectric plant on the diverted canal and the

went hand-in-hand with the war.

The ownership of the Rothenburg land was settled with the peace treaty and the land now belongs to the Jordanian government.

A proposal to develop the area as a tourist spot, with hotels and an artificial lake, is very much on the table.

Kabbari heads for Washington

(Continued from page 1)

work with (the Arab and Israeli sides) to define political mechanisms to give real meaning to the Cairo declaration in the political, economic and security fields."

The official was referring to a communique issued by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Mr. Arafat, Mr. Rabin and His Majesty King Hussein after their landmark summit in the Egyptian capital on Feb. 2.

American officials have not been fully forthcoming in how they thought the Cairo declaration could be implemented. In a regular press briefing on Thursday, State Department acting spokeswoman Christine Shelly said she could not provide any details about Sunday's meeting.

The declaration also expressed the leaders' commitment to oppose "bloodshed, terror and violence in the region," supported the Egyptian call for making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, agreed to enhance cooperation, encourage joint projects and attract international private investment, and reaffirmed their resolve to set up a regional development bank.

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Peace with Israel not enough for Arab investment boom — study

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The end of long-standing hostility between Israel and its Arab neighbours will improve investment in the Middle East but will not be enough to spur a major capital influx, an official study has said.

Although peace will end nearly 46 years of conflict, the region will remain tense unless Arabs patch up their internal rifts and improve relations with neighbouring Iran and Turkey, said the study by

the Kuwaiti-based Arab Corporation for Investment Guarantee (ACIG).

The study obtained here said five major wars between Israel and Arab states had severely harmed development in the region due to the heavy human and financial losses and expenditure on weapons by the warring parties.

"The end of the Arab-Israeli conflict will lead to an improvement in the investment climate and con-

sequently a greater capital inflow," it said.

"But such a peace is not the only factor that could trigger a capital influx. Arab states should iron out their differences and resolve existing dispute in the region due to the heavy human and financial losses and expenditure on weapons by the warring parties."

"Unless Arabs establish ties based on mutual respect and good-neighbourliness with the countries which have regional ambitions, like Iran

and Turkey, those disputes will remain a source of tension and instability in the area," the study pointed out.

Relations between Iran and its Arab Gulf neighbours have been tense over a territorial dispute with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and religious and ideological disagreements with Saudi Arabia.

Gulf states are also wary of Iran's armament programme, including the

purchase of Russian submarines.

Turkey has maintained strong links with Gulf nations, but it has been locked in a dispute with neighbouring Iraq and Syria over sharing the waters of the Euphrates river.

The Kurdish problem has also been a source of tension between Turkey and Iraq, as Ankara claims that Kurdish guerrillas are using bases in Iraq.

ACIG, which was set up

15 years ago to encourage investment among its 22 members, said regional states also needed to pursue economic reforms to attract domestic and foreign capital.

"Politics is not the only factor in attracting investment, as the economic factor is equally important. Investors always look for security as well as for profit, which cannot be achieved without a strong economy," it said.

It noted that capital flow to Arab nations had sharply declined after 1985 as the economies of most members slowed down due to low oil prices. It said Arab oil income plummeted from \$213 billion in 1980 to \$53 billion in 1986.

"This led to a sharp downturn in the economy, with the annual average growth in the gross domestic product standing at 1.7 per cent in the late 1980s, compared with 4.7

per cent in other developing countries," the study said.

ACIG estimated that Arab investment around \$12.2 billion covering 5,297 projects. Nearly \$7.8 billion are invested by Saudi Arabia and its five partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The figure is dwarfed by total Arab assets of between \$600 and \$800 billion, invested mainly in the West.

Dollar expected to strengthen over the next six months

The following report, covering the period from Thursday, Feb. 2, 1995 until Wednesday, Feb. 8, 1995 was provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill-Lynch in Dubai.

Overview

Fundamental View: A weaker-than-expected U.S. employment report last Friday sparked rallies in U.S. stock and bond markets and in the dollar as investors took the report as a sign that U.S. growth is slowing and there will be less need for further rate hikes by the Fed. Rate hikes tend to erode the value of stock and bond assets and therefore can have a negative effect on the dollar even though rate hikes are normally a net positive for the dollar by increasing the return on U.S. money market assets and decreasing the threat of inflation.

We continue to expect the Fed to raise rates at least one more time and look for the dollar to strengthen over the next six months. Dollar strength should come from a number of sources including wider spread between U.S. and foreign short rates, a marked slowdown in U.S. capital outflows, and a potential increase in inflows as investors appear to be increasing their risk aversion to the high-yielding markets.

Additional support for the dollar should also come in the form of decreased fears of a meltdown in the Mexican market and a spillover into other emerging markets. Many emerging markets, particularly the Asian markets, have sizable dollar reserves and a run on their currency will prompt dollar sales.

Our three-and six-month forecast for the yen is JPY/USD 105 and for the mark is DM/USD 1.60-to-1.65.

Technical View: Improved sentiment and constructive short term momentum continued to help the U.S. dollar as the greenback rallied against five of the six major currencies that we discuss. The Canadian dollar was the only one to rally against the U.S. currency. As a result, the U.S. dollar index recorded its second straight weekly gain with a rally of 0.7 per cent. Short term momentum is in an uptrend, allowing for further strength.

Thus, even though medium term oscillators are topsy, the prospects for a rally are likely to postpone the developing peak. Nonetheless, we will monitor the extent of the current rally since the next short term peak may also be a more important medium term top. Support is at 86.90, then the October low at 84.91. Important resistance remains in the 89.00-91.00 area.

Japanese yen

Fundamental View: The Japanese yen is currently trading near JPY/USD 99.4 but we think there is a good case for yen weakness over the next few months, though we maintain our longer-term outlook for yen strength. The short-term interest rate spread between the U.S. and Japan is strongly supportive of the U.S. dollar with the 3-month interest rate spread just under 400 basis points and the 12-month spread nearly 440 basis points. Furthermore, those spreads are likely to be even wider should, as we expect, the Fed increase rates again. Conversely, the Hanshin earthquake in Japan will dampen growth in the near-term and force the Bank of Japan to keep rates low until at least the third or fourth quarter. Looking ahead, however, this spread should begin to narrow and erode support for the dollar. In the third quarter, the multiplied effect of the rebuilding process should boost Japanese growth to close to a six per cent rate putting upward pressure on Japanese short rates.

The spread between real U.S. and Japanese rates should also narrow in the second half as strong growth and increased bond issuance put upward pressure on Japanese long rates.

However, the most important variable for determining the yen-dollar exchange rate is the cumulative current account surplus and whether or not it is being fully recycled in the form of net capital outflows from Japan. The current account surplus for 1995 is expected to fall to \$97 billion from \$130 billion in 1994, but it remains to be seen whether or not Japanese net capital outflows can come even close to matching this pace.

We maintain our three- and six-month outlook for JPY/USD 105 and our 12-month outlook of JPY/USD 95.

Technical View: The Japanese yen fell 0.5 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Feb. 3. The sentiment background for the currency has begun to deteriorate and is moving away from its recent oversold readings. Benchmark support remains at 100.80-101.80 YU.S.S and, with short term momentum exerting downward pressure, that support may be tested again over the near term. However, medium term oscillators are nearing oversold readings, suggesting that any nearby weakness may be the prelude to a more sustainable rally (support by both short and medium term oscillators) later on. If so, this would suggest a more severe challenge of the 96-97 area (and possibly beyond) once the current weakness runs its course.

Deutschmark

Fundamental View: The dollar enjoyed a sustained rally against the mark over the last week as the U.S. raised interest rates and a better-than-expected employment report caused rallies in U.S. stock and bond markets. The mark is currently trading near DM/USD 1.53 compared to DM/USD 1.51 where it had been trading for the last couple of weeks. Still, the mark remains strong compared to its December low of DM/USD 1.58.

Looking ahead, we expect the mark to return to trade near DM/USD 1.60 over the next three months as the short-term interest rate spread between the U.S. and Germany continues to widen. Also supporting the dollar is a marked slowdown in U.S. net portfolio capital outflows.

In 1990-92, these outflows averaged less than \$12.5 billion per quarter or \$50 billion at an annual rate. In 1993, net outflows surged and were as high as \$41 billion in the third-quarter, or nearly \$165 billion at an annual rate. However, by the second-half of 1994, net outflows began to slow materially and are now close to their 1990-92 pace.

Indeed, it is possible that portfolio capital inflows will outweigh outflows in the first-quarter of this year, particularly if investors become more risk adverse to some of the high-yield markets and lean towards core-market assets. Our three-six- and 12-month forecast remains at DM/USD 1.60-165, 160, respectively.

Technical View: The Deutschmark fell 0.8 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. Sentiment continues to deteriorate and is now near oversold. Medium term oscillators appear to have bottomed, but short term momentum is heading lower. This suggest that the currency is in the early stages of a near term decline and that this decline will serve to relieve the building medium term pressures and carry the medium term oscillators to better oversold levels.

In the meantime, nearby resistance exists at 1.492-1.509 DM/USD. At this point, 1.58 is benchmark support, although there is intervening support at 1.542-1.58. Against the yen, the D-mark rallied 0.8 per cent last week. Resistance exists at 66.60 with important trendline support near 63.50-64.00.

Pound sterling

Fundamental View: The British pound continued to weaken against a rejuvenated dollar, dropping below USD/GBP 1.65 to trade around USD/GBP 1.56. The pound also weakened against the mark, dropping to DM/GBP 2.38. The Chancellor

of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke announced the decision to raise base rates by 50 basis points at the Feb. 2 monetary meeting between the Bank of England governor and the chancellor of the exchequer. While widening the U.K.-German nominal spread, the rate hike failed to boost the pound which continues to be weak against the DM. Political uncertainty surrounding Prime Minister John Major's tenuous hold on power appears to be weighing down the pound.

Our U.K. economists are not convinced that Major's political troubles will push the pound significantly lower. The widening U.K.-German interest differential and sound U.K. fundamentalists are expected to dominate political uncertainty and drive the pound towards our 12-month forecast of DM/GBP 2.50.

Technical View: The British pound fell 1.6 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Feb. 3, and was the weakest currency among the six we most regularly discuss. Sentiment has moved into overbought territory. While short term momentum has peaked at near overbought levels, medium term indicators are improving. Thus, any nearby weakness will probably only serve to postpone the creation of a more important bottom.

A rally decisively through 1.602 U.S./£ could well signal an eventual challenge of the 1994 high at \$1.638. Nearby support is \$1.561, with benchmark support at \$1.544-1.550. Against the DM, sterling fell 0.9 per cent last week. Despite recent deterioration, momentum is still only neutral, suggesting an upcoming test of the August low at 2.378. Resistance exists at 2.435, then above 2.46.

Swiss franc

Fundamental View: The Swiss franc, like the Deutschmark, fell against the dollar in the latest week to S.F./USD 1.30 compared to S.F./USD 1.28 a week ago. The franc was also slightly weaker against the mark, but continued to trade near S.F./DM 0.85. For more than a month, the franc, like the Deutschmark, was supported by its "safe haven" status, but demand for that purpose appears to have slowed now that the Mexican market crisis appears to be under control. If the Mexican crisis had continued and there were another run on other emerging market currencies, there might have been sizable dollar reserve sales which would have weighed heavily on the dollar. The international support package for Mexico greatly alleviated these fears and investors will probably be more inclined to invest in dollar assets again.

Our outlook is for continued franc depreciation and we expect the franc to trade at S.F./USD 1.38 and DM/USD 0.66 in 12-months' time.

Canadian dollar

Fundamental View: The rally in U.S. stock and bond markets last Friday caused a rally in the Canadian markets which gave the CS a much needed boost. Currently, the CS is trading at a six-week high of CS/U.S.S 1.395. We also remain optimistic but caution that it is important to see the details of the budget before concluding that Canada is safe from falling into a "debt-trap."

Meanwhile, the Bank of Canada continues to be supportive of the CS and raised their overnight money rate by 50 basis points to match the U.S., rate increase. Our outlook continues to be one of caution in the near-term as we wait to see the details of the budget and some caution in the medium-term as politics heat up again. However, we remain optimistic about the longer-term due to economic fundamentals.

Our Canadian analyst, Karim Basta, looks for the CS to trade near CS/U.S.S 1.38 in three-months, CS/U.S.S 1.34 in six-months and CS/U.S.S 1.28 in twelve months.

Technical View: The Canadian dollar gained 1.1% against the U.S. dollar last week, making it the strongest currency

among the six we most regularly discuss. Despite the recent strength, sentiment remains in oversold territory, although initial signs of reversing are evident.

Short term momentum term oscillators. Thus, the bottom building process is under way and may require the completion of a rally/test sequence before the low is place.

Support exists just below 1.42 C\$/U.S., then \$1.44-1.45.

Given the extent of the September.

Australian Dollar

Fundamental View: The Australian dollar continues its steady decline, dipping below the U.S./AS \$0.75 level, the first time since Nov. 8. The AS is currently trading around U.S./AS \$0.745. Concern over Australia's widening current account deficit is evidently beginning to take a toll on the AS. The deficit widened 17% in December to a record \$2.39 billion, and the government revised its estimate for the deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30 from \$1.8 billion to \$2.6 billion, nearly 6% of GNP. The AS failed to get support from the interest rate side when the RBA decided not to raise interest rates at its board meeting on Tuesday.

Also contributing to the AS woes are weakness in commodity prices. Prices of base metals which account for more than a third of Australia's exports dropped on the London Metal Exchange. Copper prices — which are highly correlated with the AS — are now down 10% from their highs, weakening one of the most important pillars of support for the AS. Given all these negatives, we have revised our forecast for the AS, lowering our 3-month forecast to U.S./AS \$0.74. For now, our 12-m forecast continues to be U.S./AS \$0.75.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) The ideal day to begin any new plan that you have in mind. Be sure you contact those persons you want to cooperate with you and set up appointments early.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) The way in which you handle your credit and other important obligations today will either make a good or bad impression on higher ups. Be sure that you make a good impression.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) By changing your attitude at this time to a more friendly one, you find that you'll come to a real understanding with most business and personal contacts.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Use that fine comradeship with close ties now and you soon find that much support and cooperation as well as understanding is yours.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Shopping should be first on the agenda today, whether it is for the smallest personal items or buying a home, car, or major parts, etc.

VENUS: (August 22 to September 22) This is the day to get together with associates who think straight and have much influence and can assist you with personal matters of property or some new project you have in mind.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) By being less reserved, you find that many will be attracted to you now and life becomes far more successful and happy. Make as many new contacts as you can this evening.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) There's every opportunity now to garner the information you need secretly to help you settle your affairs more wisely. Evening is good for social affairs.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Sociability is the key word for today and tonight, so be sure to get an early start and call upon key people so that you can advance more quickly in your chosen career.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) The right day to get in touch with those who can help you to greater success in your chosen career, but you must show that you have particular talents that are marketable.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) That fine mind is working cleverly now and you are ridding yourself of inhibitions, so this is the time today to take the step that will lead you in a more successful channel of life.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Show that you are an upright citizen by getting taxes and other bills paid up well as all personal and business debts that are currently pressing. This evening is good for entertainment.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst — Onyx

THE Daily Crossword

By Raymond Helm



study

per cent in other developing countries," the said.

ACIG estimated Arab investment around \$12.2 billion, covering 5,297 projects, nearly \$7.8 billion invested by its five partners, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The figure is down between \$600 and \$650 million, invested mainly in the West.

Burned market' offers bright bargains

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

business daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Burned market' offers bright bargains

Amman stock market in Ramadan lethargy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prices and turnover dropped at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) last week as the lethargy of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan set in among investors amid anticipation of a capital shift to the primary market for fresh issues, brokers said Friday.

Among factors cited by the brokers for the obvious stagnation in the market were also the strict enforcement of Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) guidelines on commercial bank credits as well as the introduction of fresh stocks

by some companies.

The weekly report of the market said volume for the week ending Thursday was JD 3.4 million, down 15 per cent from the previous week's JD 4 million.

The general share price index based on 60 major companies closed at 140.68 points after losing 1.6 points or 1.1 points during the week, the report said. At one point during the week the index has dropped to 140.62 points.

The separate sectoral indices showed that services sector shares lost 2.6 points

(two per cent), industrial stock lost two points (1.6 per cent), commercial bank shares lost 1.1 points, or 0.7 per cent and insurance stock closed 0.6 points or 0.5 per cent as trading came to an end for the week.

Industrial stocks saw the largest turnover in sectoral trading during the week with JD 1.66 million, followed by commercial banks and financial institutions with JD 1.21 million, stocks of services sector companies with JD 1.00 million and insurance stock worth JD 21.00.

The week saw stocks of 79 companies changing hands. As trading closed for the week, nine of them, most of them blue chips, showed

gains; 56 closed with losses and 14 remained stable with no change in their price.

The Amman Financial Market lists nearly 120 companies with a total market value equity of about JD 3.6 billion.

About 20 of the 120 are new entities not listed for trading in the secondary market, awaiting the formalisation of their shares and official entry to the floor of their shares. Trading in those shares are classified as "parallel market" transactions but the volume is included in overall turnover in the weekly reports.

Brokers said most investors were taking it easy during Ramadan, when Muslims

fast from sunrise to sunset and observe shorter working hours, and hence the stagnation in the market.

The drop in prices was attributed to investor fears that fresh issues planned by commercial banks to meet the Central Bank directive to raise their capital to JD 20 million would lead to major shifts from the secondary market to the primary market. Brokers said investors did not appear to be taking in the fact that the Central Bank had given the commercial banks until end of 1996 to meet with the capital requirement.

Another reason for the decline was tightened credit policies imposed by the Central Bank. Under the policies, no bank is allowed to lend more than 10 per cent of its capital and reserves to an individual account. Earlier, the credit line was 25 per cent and the Central Bank did not strictly enforce the regulations. In the new year, the CBJ informed commercial banks that violators had until end of February to correct their accounts or face punitive action in the form of additional mandatory deposits in the Central Bank.

In general, brokers said, an improvement in overall trading and prices at the stock market could be expected only after the Ramadan holidays and later in March when many companies are expected to announce their formal annual figures for 1994.

Billionaire buys control of Israel Chemicals for \$230m

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — In one of the biggest-ever privatisation deals in Israel, billionaire businessman Shaul Eisenberg has purchased controlling interest in Israel Chemicals, Ltd., officials have said.

Mr. Eisenberg is buying 24.9 per cent of the conglomerate, which includes the Dead Sea Works Mining Company and other industries, for \$230.5 million, said a finance ministry statement.

"It is our showpiece deal in the effort to sell state companies," said ministry spokesman Eli Yosef.

Since coming to power in 1992, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party-led government has stepped up privatisation of the massive public sector, which employs almost a fifth of Israel's two million workers and accounts for about 17 per cent of the economy.

About \$1.5 billion worth of assets were sold off in 1993. But the drive has slowed because of a collapse of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, which lost 40 per cent of its value over the last year.

Other major holdings still on the block are the El Al national airline and the major Israeli banks, which were nationalised as part of a government bailout after they collapsed in 1993.

Joshua Neeman, a spokesman for Mr. Eisenberg, said Israel Chemicals will be registered both under his main holding company, the Israel Corp., and an unnamed foreign company.

"Eisenberg is looking to make the Israel Corp. a player in the international business arena," Mr. Neeman said.

In coming weeks, the government plans to float more Israel Chemicals shares in markets in Israel, America and Europe, retaining only 26 per cent of the stock, Mr. Yosef said.

But the state will maintain control over some aspect of the company's operations that would impact Israel's natural resources through a "golden share" arrangement, Mr. Yosef said.

"When you are talking about a company as large as Israel Chemicals, with such impact on natural resources and employment, it's very difficult for the state to break free entirely," said Yoram Ziv, a former Israel chemical director.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSING BANK CENTER JORDAN - SWITZERLAND TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170					
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (04/02/1995 - 08/02/1995) WEEKLY REPORT					
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
ARAB BANK PLC	206,670	184.500	184.500	184.500	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	60,326	4.280	4.280	4.150	-0.130
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW BANK OF JORDAN	88,595	4.160	4.160	4.100	-0.060
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	18,338	3.600	3.600	3.580	-0.020
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	12,552	1.470	1.470	1.440	-0.030
THE HOUSING BANK	16,044	2.840	2.840	2.650	-0.190
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	55,157	5.950	5.950	5.950	
JORDAN GULF BANK	11,605	3.000	3.000	2.950	-0.050
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	344,764	1.470	1.470	1.370	-0.100
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	86,982	3.750	3.750	3.710	-0.040
BUSINESS BANK	51,000	5.100	5.100	5.100	
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	43,740	3.500	3.500	3.480	-0.020
BRITISH ISLAMIC SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	12,914	3.150	3.150	3.050	-0.100
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	136,535	3.120	3.120	2.990	-0.130
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	2,677	4.150	4.150	4.150	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	20,276	1.520	1.520	1.400	-0.120
BANKS SECTOR					
	1207819	INDEX NUMBER: 157.12			
	CHANGE	1 - 0.72%			
UNITED INSURANCE	4,035	2.800	2.800	2.690	-0.110
JERUSALEM INSURANCE	1,230	4.200	4.200	4.100	-0.100
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	6,799	2.360	2.360	2.290	-0.070
KARDOCK INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	6,300	3.100	3.100	3.150	0.050
HOLY LAND INSURANCE	1,574	2.500	2.500	2.500	
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	1,300	2.600	2.600	2.600	
INSURANCE SECTOR					
	21238	INDEX NUMBER: 135.55			
	CHANGE	1 - 0.45%			
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	38,722	1.480	1.480	1.460	-0.020
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	98,140	1.390	1.390	1.360	-0.030
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	1,968	6.250	6.250	6.560	0.310
JORDAN MINER MINERAL	295	2.950	2.950	2.950	
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	23,490	5.000	5.000	4.700	-0.300
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	22,293	3.240	3.240	3.150	-0.090
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	12,098	2.200	2.200	2.110	-0.090
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'A	5,995	11.950	11.950	11.950	
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	39,705	2.350	2.350	2.270	-0.080
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	18,827	3.540	3.540	3.600	0.060
JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	2,415	1.370	1.370	1.380	0.010
SERVICES SECTOR					
	263936	INDEX NUMBER: 128.00			
	CHANGE	1 - 2.00%			
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	42,750	30.300	30.300	34.500	4.200
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	520,628	2.920	2.920	2.950	0.030
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	1,425	2.850	2.850	2.850	
THE ARAB POTASH/NEW	3,063	5.050	5.050	5.050	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	9,827	9.500	9.500	9.400	-0.100
JORDAN TANNING	10,875	7.500	7.500	7.500	
GRAND TOTAL					
					555631
PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (04/02/1995 - 08/02/1995) WEEKLY REPORT					
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	29,029	0.850	0.850	0.860	0.010
JORDAN TRADE FACILITIES	95,045	0.820	0.820	0.770	-0.050
KARAK PRIVATE FACILITIES	39,885	1.420	1.420	1.500	0.080
UNIFIED CO. FOR ORGANIZING LAND TRANS.	21,365	2.360	2.360	2.250	-0.110
ARAB FIN INV. CO.	46,777	1.070	1.070	0.960	-0.110
ARAB FOOD & MEDICAL APPLIANCES	642	1.050	1.050	1.050	
NATIONAL CHLORINE INDUSTRIES CO. LTD	31,396	1.690	1.690	1.640	-0.050
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	30,290	1.750	1.750	1.630	-0.120
NATIONAL MULTIPLE INDUSTRIES	40,498	1.270	1.270	1.120	-0.150
EL-KAY READY WEAR MANUFACTURING CO.	1,112	2.290	2.290	2.250	-0.040
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	108,653	1.460	1.460	1.430	-0.030
NATIONAL ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES	69,121	1.240	1.240	1.120	-0.120
JORDAN STEEL	13,963	1.000	1.000	0.960	-0.040
ARAB ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES	27,844	1.100	1.100	1.120	0.020
GRAND TOTAL					
					555631

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 9/

Violence and corruption overshadows fair play

LONDON (AP) — A fan is stabbed to death in Italy and another gunned down in France. Star striker Eric Cantona vaults into the crowd to attack a spectator while players in England and Malaysia are accused of taking bribes.

Soccer seems to have shown FIFA's fair play image the red card.

Last summer's World Cup in the United States was a huge success in terms of finance, crowd behaviour and even goalscoring. It was supposed to be the forerunner of new-look, 21st century soccer, marked by sportsmanship, good conduct and high-quality action.

Instead, the seven months since the World Cup have shown all the signs that the world's most popular sport is sliding back into the ugly days of the early 1980s.

Almost two weeks ago, Genoa fan Vincenzo Spagnolo was knifed to death by a teen-age AC Milan supporter prior to an Italian League game. The game was abandoned and, the following weekend, all domestic sport in Italy was cancelled as a mark of respect.

On Tuesday, a French fan died two days after he was shot by a rival supporter at a game between two amateur teams.

While the world is stunned by sport-related tragedies like these, Pele, the most famous player of all-time, believes that the deaths of the two fans should not be blamed on soccer.

"We talk a lot about violence in sport, but violence isn't in sport, violence is in society in general," said the Brazilian, in Paris for a 1998 World Cup promotion.



Fans of the Bordeaux football team shout slogans demanding the resignation of their team's trainer in a confrontation with police on Thursday after the team lost to visiting

Brace Grobbelaar, is under investigation for allegedly taking a 40,000-pound (\$62,000) bribe to fix the result of a Liverpool-Newcastle game.

Bribery allegations have been rife in Singapore and Malaysia, where 90 players have been implicated in match-fixing.

Tax authorities, as well as the Premier League, are investigating allegations that some club managers involved in transfer deals with foreign players have broken the rules by receiving gifts from bookmakers.

Cantona's unprecedented clash on Jan. 25 with a fan at the Crystal Palace-Manchester United game prompted worldwide condemnation of the Frenchman's action. It also sparked a debate on how fans should be prevented from continually taunting players from such close range.

The striker, who has a history of violent on-field conduct both in France and England, leaped into the crowd after being expelled. He took a flying, two-footed kick at a Palace supporter, who had rushed forward 11 rows to hurl abuse at him.

United, under pressure from the English Football Association, banned Cantona for the rest of the season.

Field invasions have become more common.

The most recent was Wednesday.

After Millwall gained an upset victory at Chelsea in the FA Cup, hundreds of home fans invaded the field to try and get at the visiting fans. Some got there but most were halted by a line of mounted police. Nineteen fans were charged and 11 police officers were injured.

"I hope we are not going back to the hooligan-dominated days of a decade or so ago," said Graham Kelly, the English FA's chief executive. "Great strides have been made in recent years over crowd control."



A Chelsea supporter is restrained by police when crowd disturbances erupted after Chelsea were knocked out of the FA Cup by Millwall on Thursday evening. Rival fans were involved in violent clashes inside and outside Stamford Bridge (AFP photo)

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH
1994 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

EACH CHANCE IN ITS TIME

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ 8 6 5 3

♦ A 3

♦ Q J 4

♦ K 9 8 5

WEST

♦ ♠ 9 8 7 6

♦ K 10 9 8

♦ ♠ 7 6 5 4 2

♦ ♠ 7 2

EAST

♦ ♠ 9 8 7 6 5

♦ ♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5

SOUTH

♦ ♠ A K J 9 8 7 4

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The bidding:

South West North East

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

West led a diamond, taken in the closed hand perfectly. Since the diamond suit would provide a parking spot for one of declarer's losers, 12 tricks were sure as long as West did not hold all the trumps. The king of spades was cashed, and South

learned that Murphy's Law had struck.

If clubs were 3-3, the 13th club would take care of declarer's heart loser, so declarer cashed the ace of hearts. West cashed the king of diamonds, and declarer cashed the king of clubs to take a club (!) discard on the queen of diamonds. Next came a club ruff and another chance went aglimmering when West discarded a heart.

There was no more room to demand bid by simply raising to game and North had plenty in reserve to contract for slam.

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Sports

FINA announces anti-doping crackdown

LAUSANNE (R) — Swimming's governing body announced plans on Friday for a tough crackdown on doping and said it would send investigators to China to look into a spate of positive drug tests at last year's Asian Games.

possible in our sport.'

Seven Chinese swimmers, including World Champions Lu Bin and Yang Aihua, tested positive for a banned anabolic steroid at last October's Asian Games in Hiroshima. All seven have received the standard two-year ban from competition.

The news came as a major shock to the sport, although Chinese sports officials have vigorously denied allegations of systematic doping.

FINA said the proposals — giving swimming some of the toughest laws on drugs — was worked out at a meeting this week of FINA executives, medical experts and FINA vice-presidents representing all five continents.

FINA said it would substantially increase the number of out-of-competition dope tests this year.

FINA president Mustapha Larfaoui welcomed the crackdown, saying it would hopefully eliminate the abuses of drugs that are

possible in our sport.'

It's first decision was to send a FINA commission to China to investigate the involvement of coaches, doctors and team leaders in the cases of drug abuse found in Chinese swimmers in 1994.'

As well as agreeing to step up out-of-competition dope tests — seen by experts as the surest way to catch dope cheats — the meeting also agreed to call for an extraordinary FINA congress.

The congress, planned for Rio de Janeiro at the end of this year, would consider five proposed rule changes:

1. That the rule on a two-year ban for first use of steroids should be rewritten to read 'a minimum of two years.'

2. That FINA should introduce 'retroactive sanctions, including a period before the date of a positive doping test for steroid abuse.' This rule was not explained but appeared to be a clear threat

that swimmers' previous records could be wiped from the books.

3. That national federations from which positive dope tests have been reported should also face sanctions.

4. That federations should be obliged to investigate coaches, doctors and team leaders "and/or any other person involved in the doping cases."

5. That dope tests should be obligatory within 48 hours of a swimmer breaking a world record or that record would not be approved.

FINA president Larfaoui said he was particularly pleased the issue had been discussed so thoroughly.

"I am pleased that we have consensus on a number of new approaches to control and hopefully eliminate the abuses of drugs that are possible in our sport," Larfaoui said.



French Guy Delage (c), the 42-year-old trans-Atlantic swimmer, steps ashore 9 February at Miami Beach, Barbados, after a 56-day, 3,900 kilometre ocean voyage. Delage plunged into

the Atlantic Ocean off the Cape Verde Islands on 16 December at the start of his swim, using a fully-equipped raft (AFP photo)

Trans-Atlantic swimmer reaches Barbados

MIAMI BEACH, Barbados (R) — A lone French swimmer on Thursday completed an unprecedented and dangerous eight-week voyage across the Atlantic when he landed on the Caribbean island of Barbados.

"It has been difficult," 42-year-old Guy Delage said after setting foot on the sand at 7:45 a.m. (1145 GMT).

Still wearing his mask, he kissed his wife in the sun after she waded out to greet him, ending the 3,900 km crossing from the Cape Verde Islands off Africa where he started on December 16.

During his eccentric journey, in which he was attacked by a shark and stung by jellyfish, Delage estimated he lost 14 kilos of weight — almost

the amount he gained to prepare for the swim.

But, he told reporters on his arrival, he already regretted leaving the ocean and would not hesitate to repeat the swim "if I had to do it all over again."

"It was difficult," he was just as I expected," he said.

He spoke warmly of the ocean and said he felt most upset by the thought that fish which had gathered under his raft and swum with him might have been caught in nets off Barbados.

"It was a dream world, a child's world, above all a world of purity. There was neither pollution nor decay," he said.

"It was a world of blue, a fairy world of blue ... grey blues, azure, a hostile and cruel world but one where one can also feel acceptance," he said.

Asked what memories would stay with him, he said he would not soon forget the time he noticed a shark about to bite his leg or when he lost sight of his raft.

He repelled the shark with a sharp kick to its nose and caught up with the raft, which was pushed along ahead of him by the wind, by swimming faster for a few frantic hours.

The venture cost six million francs (\$1.1 million) and was mostly funded by the makers of his swimming gear, food supplies, watch and other equipment.

rious island residents and journalists, before being led away for medical tests and immigration controls — bearing out his fears that the return to human society would be a shock.

Delage, a flying instructor and adventurer, has defended his trip as both scientific research and a feat of endurance.

Asked what memories would stay with him, he said he would not soon forget the time he noticed a shark about to bite his leg or when he lost sight of his raft.

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MasterCard to pay \$21m for soccer championships

NEW YORK (AP) — MasterCard International on Thursday became the first sponsor of the 1998 World Cup, agreeing to pay about \$21 million for its association with the tournament and European Championship.

The deal with ISL Marketing AG, the marketing agent for FIFA and the Union of European Football Associations, is the second straight World Cup sponsorship for MasterCard. The company will get two signboards in each game of the 1998 World Cup in France and four

in the opening and final stages of the 1996 European Championship in Sweden.

MasterCard's success with World Cup USA 1994 proved that the World Cup can be the perfect vehicle to achieve our card usage goals and build brand awareness worldwide," President H. Eugene Lockhart told a news conference in Paris.

Pele, soccer's best player ever, agreed to remain MasterCard's chief soccer spokesman. Pele, 54, predicted the defending champion Brazil would at least make the semifinals in 1998.

"It may be too soon to say, but I hope Brazil is in the final game with France," he said.

Wang leads Ma's army

BEIJING (AFP) — Ma Junren's leading foot soldier Wang Junxia has taken over his army of world beating runners for the Beijing Ekiden race next month while the coach continues his convalescence, the China Sports Daily said Friday.

Wang will also take part — but fellow world record holder and world champion Qu Yunxia is mysteriously not training with the team. The newspaper gave no

reason for the 1,500 world record holder's absence. But the sports ministry denied it was linked to other recent scandals to hit Ma's army.

Liu Dong, the other world champion, is also absent even though she has mended fences with Ma and rejoined his team in Liaoning, northeast China. The ministry spokesman said she would not run in the March 2 race because of her poor form due to lack of competition.

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Excellent location in Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle area, 100 metres east of Khalidi Hospital, near Rawhi Pharmacy.

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FREEFALL

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
The movie: THE LION KING will be shown on Fridays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

Agassi fights off Goellner

SAN JOSE (AP) — Andre Agassi fought off persistent Marc Goellner for a 7-6 (7-4), 6-2 victory Thursday night in the San Jose Open.

Agassi, the top seed, displayed none of his characteristic flamboyance until late in the match, by which time he had settled in against Goellner. In the third game of the second set, he raised his arms to the crowd for applause and smiled.

"I feel like we were both

playing well," said Agassi, ranked second in the world.

"It was hard to pick up on his serve."

Goellner, of Germany, had 12 aces.

Agassi has won 31 of 33

matches since a second-round

loss at New Haven in August.

including victories in the U.S.

open and the Australian Open.

He claims he is not under

too much pressure to take

over the top ranking from

Pete Sampras.

"I'm not putting too much emphasis on it, although it's an accomplishment that if I'm there I'll be very proud of."

Earlier Thursday, Jim Grabb upset his former Stanford teammate and doubles partner, sixth-seeded Patrick McEnroe, 7-5, 6-7 (6-8), 6-3.

Grabb had 26 aces against

McEnroe to advance to the

quarterfinals. Grabb and

McEnroe, who are the

second-seeded doubles team,

have already advanced

together to the semifinals and

will play again on Saturday.

Brian MacPhie also moved

into the quarterfinals with a

6-4, 6-3 victory over Kenny Thorne.

In other matches Thursday,

Bryan Shelton beat

Diego Nargiso of Italy, 7-6

(7-4), 7-6 (7-4) and Greg

Rusiedski of Canada defeated

Anders Jarryd of Sweden 6-7

(7-3), 6-0, 6-4. Rusiedski had

a serve clocked at 134 mph

(216 kph) in the match, the

fastest recorded this year.

In the late match, third-

seeded Jim Courier was to

face Nicolas Pereira of Vene-

zuela.

Courier advanced into the

second round with a 6-2, 6-4

victory over Steve Campbell.

Courier won at Adelaide

earlier this year and made it

to the quarterfinals of the

Australian Open before fall-

ing in five sets to Pete Sam-

pras. He admits that he is off

to a good start.

High Kemp scored 30

points before fouling out in

overtime and Derlef Schrempf added 24 for the

Sonics, who have won five

of their last six games to

move within 3½ of first

place Phoenix in the Pacific

Division.

Ron Harper scored 26

points and Scottie Pippen

added 24 as the Bulls

finished a six-game road

trip at 2-4. The game

marked the first time in the

last seven contests the Pip-

pen wasn't both the Bulls'

leading scorer and re-

bounder.

FIFA cancels World Youth Championships

ZURICH (AP) — Soccer's world governing body on Friday cancelled next month's World Youth Championships in Nigeria, citing health problems in the country.

FIFA said it will discuss the possibility of an alternative venue next week, although officials have said finding another site at such short notice would be tough.

The two-week, 16-team tournament for players aged 20 and under was due to be staged in four Nigerian cities March 11-26. FIFA said it felt obliged to cancel the event following reports of outbreaks of meningitis and cholera in the past few weeks.

"There have been cases of meningitis and cholera reported by health officials in Kaduna and Enugu, which together with Lagos and Ibadan were foreseen as host cities of the championships," a FIFA statement said.

"These reports were also confirmed by a member of the FIFA Sports Medical Committee visiting these areas.

"FIFA regret the need to cancel the event in Nigeria, especially as the Nigerian organisers had gone to great lengths to ensure the infrastructure and logistical arrangements for the tournament," the statement said.

He claims he is not under

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over the top ranking from

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Chechens leave Grozny, leave mobile units behind

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Rebel fighters have virtually abandoned the Chechen capital Grozny but are leaving behind hit-and-run units to harass Russian troops, a Chechen military official told Interfax news agency on Friday.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said clashes were occurring all over Grozny, largely destroyed by six weeks of often bloody fighting.

"The Chechen armed forces have practically all been withdrawn from Grozny... mobile units of infantry, continually on the move, are fighting in the city," he said.

The Chechens said on Thursday they would leave Grozny, after humiliating Moscow's troops at virtually every stage of the way.

Interfax quoted Chechen sources as saying the Chechen military headquarters had been moved 20 kilometres east to the town of Argun.

Chechen commander Asian Maskhadov vowed to continue the fight against Russian forces, who moved into the rebellious region on Dec. 11 to quash Chechenya's bid for independence and entered Grozny itself on New Year's Eve.

"What's so special about one city? There is always the next city, and the next village," he said on Thursday.

President Boris Yeltsin read a report on the situation in Chechenya to leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the Kazakh capital Alma-Ata on Friday.

But no details of the speech were made public and Russian Prime Minister Viki-

tor Chernomyrdin told a post-summit news conference that Chechenya was an internal Russian matter.

Chechen diaspora leaders and Kazakh nationalists published an open letter in Alma-Ata calling for an immediate end to the Chechenya fighting.

"The murder of a people cannot be regarded as the internal affair of just one country," the letter said.

The Duma called on President Yeltsin to appoint an envoy to settle the issue.

The Russian troops fully control two of Chechenya's 11 districts but still face attacks from small groups of rebels south of Grozny.

The so-called Congress of Chechen People, meeting at an unspecified site and date, pledged to continue resistance to the Russian intervention "if Russian authorities again decide to ignore Chechenya's offer to halt military activities and open negotiations," said Ingush presidential advisor Pyotr Kosov.

Chechen military officials have handed over a blueprint for the settlement of the Chechen conflict to the Russian high command," Mr. Kosov added.

He said the chief of staff of the secessionist troops, Asian Moskhadov, commanding Colonel Shamil Basayev, and four fighters who died in clashes with Russian troops were decorated at the congress meeting.

The Russian counter-intelligence service (FSK) meanwhile scrutinised Mr. Dudayev's personal files seized by Russian troops in the presidential palace in Grozny, Interfax said.

Documents seized in Mr. Dudayev's offices included family papers but also "important" official files and reports by Chechen security chief Sultan Gelishkanov.

In another development, the Duma — the Russian lower house — voted Friday in favour of a swap of Russian and Chechen troops taken prisoner.

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"Of the 11 administrative districts in Chechenya, two — Narderechnaya, in the north, and Nauris, in the northwest — are fully under the control of federal troops," Interfax news agency quoted the Russian government's press service as saying.

About 170 of the refugees who fled these regions after the Russian intervention began to return to the "liberated territories," the press service added.

Meanwhile, "Russian troops are pursuing clean-up operations" in southeast Grozny, where resistance in the capital has been concentrated for the past few days.

Russian forces were still coming under attack from "small groups of fighters toward Chechen-Aul and Argun," 12 kilometres south and 15 kilometres southeast of Grozny.

"Despite major losses, the (Chechen) partisans continue to resist and are preparing for active combat," the press service added.



LIBERATED AREA: His Majesty King Hussein, full sovereignty, in line with the Oct. 26 peace treaty, visits the Banjara area after Jordan-Israel peace treaty (photo by Yeasef Alaa)

EU troika ends Mideast trip with little success in peace effort

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Three senior European Union (EU) officials wound up a four-day tour of the Middle East on Friday, saying Arab and Israeli leaders were determined to shore up the peace process.

"There is a role for Europe in the peace operation, to go alongside that of the United States and Russia," French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said at the presidential palace before the group's departure from Beirut at nightfall.

Mr. Juppe, who is the current president of the EU Council of Ministers, was accompanied by Hans-Friedrich von Ploetz, Germany's secretary of state for foreign affairs, and Carlos Westendorp, Spain's secretary of state for the European Union.

They met during its seven-hour stay in Beirut with President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and Foreign Minister Faris Bouez.

The EU officials had talks with Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad in Damascus, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in occupied Jeru-

salem and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza before their first trip to Beirut since the end of Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

"What we heard from the Syrian president and from officials in Israel, and the Palestinian Authority fosters our conviction that the peace process will continue despite the current obstacles," Mr. Juppe said. "It reflects their determination to make the process work."

Mr. Juppe said the European Union supported Lebanon's demand for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from an occupied enclave in South Lebanon in compliance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 425.

However, the EU mission failed to make an impact on the stalled peace process despite its economic muscle.

The European envoys were unable to find the ways and means to relaunch the process," Mr. Juppe said after talks with Mr. Bouez.

"It is urgent to relaunch it (the peace process) because any delay or stagnation could have serious consequences," said Mr. Juppe, at the end of the first EU troika tour of the

region since the 1993 Palestinian autonomy accord.

"We are available. We have good relations with all the countries concerned," he said. "We are ready to play a role... to pass on messages because we are very present here, but we do not have any revolutionary proposals."

Before coming to Beirut, Mr. Juppe urged Israel to end its border closure imposed on autonomous Palestinian areas after a Jan. 22 suicide bombing killed 21 Israelis north of Tel Aviv.

Mr. Juppe also pledged increased assistance to Mr. Arafat's self-rule authorities in Gaza and Jericho.

He warned that a breakdown of the peace process would be catastrophic for the region and for international stability.

"The talks should con-

tinue, be assured that we would stand by you," Mr. Juppe said.

The EU has pledged the Palestinians \$70 million over five years — about a sixth of the total international aid package. Mr. Juppe said \$17 million already has been spent on education and health.

Brown ends Mideast trip

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown left the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Friday at the end of a week-long tour of the Middle East with a delegation of U.S. company chief executives, the Emirates news agency said.

Mr. Brown told a news conference in Abu Dhabi on Thursday he was optimistic that U.S. firms could win arms deals in UAE. He met UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan and other senior officials during the visit.

Mr. Brown also visited Egypt, Israel, Gaza and the West Bank, Jordan, Kuwait and Qatar.

The Gulf Arab state plans to buy frigates, naval helicopters and strike aircraft. U.S. firms which want to sell them are facing hot competition from European arms manufacturers.

"All we have ever sought is the ability to compete on a level playing field. Given that, we believe American companies will win in the overwhelming majority of instances," Mr. Brown said (in Abu Dhabi).

Mr. Brown and UAE leaders also discussed trade, the Middle East peace process and Gulf security issues.

The U.S. mission's visit comes before the IDEX defence show in Abu Dhabi in March, when defence experts expect the UAE to announce arms deals or at least state its intentions.

Among the chief executives travelling with Mr. Brown was W.R. Phillips of Temecoo Inc. unit Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS), which is one of five contenders for a frigate deal with the UAE.

In Kuwait City, Mr. Brown was given a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton to the emir of Kuwait, the official news agency KUNA reported.

The message was given to Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah by Mr. Brown.

Column 8

Castro buys business suits to liven up his wardrobe

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — A Dutch fashion designer says Cuban strongman Fidel Castro would look right at home on Wall Street in the new business suits she's sold him.

Known for his trademark green military fatigues, the Communist leader called in Rotterdam designer Merel Van 't Wout after seeing her suits being worn by fashionable Cubans. Ms. Van 't Wout said she visited the Caribbean island state several times late last year to give Mr. Castro fittings. "He normally wears warm green," Ms. Van 't Wout said Thursday. "I think that's fine, but my advice is something else."

But the ruler of Cuba for 36 years won't be putting his famed fatigues in mothballs, said Ms. Van 't Wout.

The new look, "it's normal. It's not something from out of space," said a woman who answered the phone, but declined to give her name. Ms.

Van 't Wout, who advises her clients on what colours suit them best, picked dark blue, grey, and — of course — green. The 67-year-old dictator had chosen a pair of black shoes and a light blue shirt to complete the ensemble.

Home of Florida's top law officer burglarised for fourth time

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP) — Florida's top law enforcement officer has been having a tough time with crime — in his own home.

Four times in four years, burglars have broken into Attorney General Bob Butterworth's house.

"Each time, I have less and less," he joked Thursday hours after the latest burglary. "I do have a toaster." The latest break-in cost him about \$1,000 worth of property, including clothes, liquor, a compact disc player and a video recorder. Add those items to a list of about \$1,100 worth of jewelry, a World War II-vintage Luger 9mm pistol worth about \$400, and a microwave, among other items stolen during burglaries in May 1991, October 1991 and July 1993. Mr. Butterworth — who lives with his wife and their two children — has always been reluctant to install a security system. But he said he's now thinking seriously about taking that step. He's also considering buying a dog.

Los Angeles woman gives birth to quintuplets

LOS ANGELES (R) — A 26-year-old Los Angeles woman gave birth to healthy quintuplets. The tiny babies — two boys and three girls — were born to Marcella Quezada by Caesarean section and were listed in stable condition at the Kaiser Permanente Woodland Hills Medical Centre, hospital officials said. Ms. Quezada was admitted in mid-November, where doctors worked to prevent an early delivery and help her carry the babies to full term, a hospital spokeswoman said. The infants — Andrew, Raymond, Tiffany, Kimberly and Patricia — ranged in weight from two pounds two ounces (963 grams) to three pounds 11 ounces (1.33 kg).

Dead man given 24 years in slammer

TURIN, Italy (AP) — A Turin court sentenced a dead man to 24 years in prison, Italian newspapers reported.

The accused, Tommaso Cerrando, a small-time hoodlum from Catanzaro in Calabria, had been shot dead two months earlier but nobody had bothered to inform the judges or lawyers in the case.

Mr. Cerrando, 24, was sentenced on Jan. 28 for the 1991 murder of a fellow Calabrian after the traditional closing *assise* speeches and defence pleadings in the Turin Assize Court. It was only on Feb. 3 that the judges learned that he had been shot dead on Nov. 30 in Milan.

Religious students take town near Kabul

KABUL (AP) — A new Islamic militia made up of religious students scored its most important to date Friday when it captured a key town only 30 kilometres outside Kabul.

The Taliban movement, which did not exist as a military force until late last year, has rapidly emerged as one of the most powerful factions in the multi-sided civil war.

The group defeated Hezb-e-Islami, the main opposition group, in a battle for the town of Maidan Shahr that began Thursday afternoon and lasted into the early hours of Friday morning.

The town is 30 kilometres southwest of Kabul and sits on the main road leading into the capital.

Taliban soldiers were in full control of the town Friday when an Associated Press reporter visited. The town was quiet and some businesses were open. The soldiers were hanging out at a court building and some were sleeping.

Mohammad Rabbani, a Taliban commander, said the group had tried to negotiate with Hezb-e-Islami, "but we failed to reach agreement so we attacked."

The Taliban has not aligned itself with any of the 10 other factions locked in a bitter power struggle for Kabul.

It could not be determined why Eintour was arrested at this time or whether Syria, the dominant power in Lebanon, had approved the move amid international efforts to get peace talks restarted between

Abu Nidal hit man arrested in S. Lebanon

SIDON (AP) — A man believed to be the top assassin for the Palestinian Abu Nidal group has been arrested in this southern Lebanese port city, security sources disclosed Friday.

The man was identified as Mahmud Khalid Eintour, alias Abu Ali Majed, 48, a Palestinian with a Jordanian passport. The sources said he headed the assassination branch of Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council faction.

Eintour has been known as a ranking Abu Nidal lieutenant. But this was the first time he was identified as head of the group's "liquidation department," said security sources.

Lebanon has long been a haven for extremists from throughout the Middle East and Europe. But since the end of its 1975-1990 civil war, the Beirut government has been trying to restore its authority.

It could not be determined why Eintour was arrested at this time or whether Syria, the dominant power in Lebanon, had approved the move amid international efforts to get peace talks restarted between

the officials as saying Mr. Yousef's origins were still unclear, with reports saying he was born either in Iraq, Pakistan or Kuwait. The daily also cites Arab speakers who have detected a Palestinian accent in Mr. Yousef after hearing recordings of his conversations.

Pakistani police have arrested a South African relative of Mr. Yousef, who was with Mr. Yousef the evening before his capture, according to reports Friday.

Istiaque Parker, the South African, was picked up after the arrest of Mr. Yousef, said an English-language daily.

Police and government officials said they were checking, but could not immediately confirm Mr. Parker's arrest. South African diplomats also said they were trying without success to locate Mr. Parker. There was no word on what charges Mr. Parker might face.

Prosecutors say Mr. Yousef bought chemicals, left fingerprints at an apartment used as a bomb factory and was seen in the van that carried the bomb.

Four men were convicted last March and given life sentences. Another pleaded guilty to a minor role. A seventh suspect is still at large.

Mr. Yousef, who studies at the Islamic University in Islamabad, led Mr. Yousef to the Su-Casa guest house on Monday afternoon and the two

were seized in the house. Eintour was taken to a maximum security jail at the Defence Ministry in suburban Yarze, eight kilometres east of the Lebanese capital, the sources said.

In the yacht hijacking-kidnap saga in November 1987, Abu Nidal's group claimed Belgian brothers on board were spies for Israel's Mossad secret service. The captives denied the charge after they were freed.

The source said Eintour was also suspected of masterminding the May 21, 1988 abduction of Belgian physician Jan Cools, 39, who worked for Norwegian humanitarian organisation Norwac in South Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps. He was released in Sidon at Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi's request June 15, 1989.

Eintour offered no resistance when he was picked by the Lebanese army intelligence branch from his house in Sidon's Tannir neighbourhood earlier this week, said the sources. Sidon, Lebanon's third largest city, is 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

Eintour was also suspected of masterminding the assassination of Jordanian diplomat Naeib Osman Misayah in Beirut Jan. 29, 1994, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The source said Eintour was seized for coffee that evening, hotel manager Musawar Oazi told the Associated Press.

Mr. Parker lives in an apartment just across the street from the guest house, a two-storey, whitewashed stone home in a quiet residential street in Islamabad, Mr. Oazi said.

Mr. Yousef, an Iraqi, had a false Pakistani identity card and had registered under the alias Ali Mohammad, said Mr. Oazi.

He made several local calls and also phoned twice to the northwestern city of Peshawar, where he is thought to have received military training.

Pakistani officials have given conflicting accounts of Mr. Yousef's capture and some details are still unclear.

The officials said, incorrectly, that the suspect had been picked up at the Holiday Inn hotel. They also gave contradictory accounts about whether Mr. Yousef was travelling with Iraqi or Pakistani travel documents.